

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. LXVI.]

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BIRTHS.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on Sunday the 8th December at 5.56 p.m., the wife of N. G. NOLAN, of a son.

On December 9th, at Swatow, the wife of A. MACGOWAN of twin daughters.

MARRIAGES.

On December 3rd, at Shanghai, AUGUSTUS ROBERT, second surviving son of the late F. W. (t. von Stockhausen and Mrs. von Stockhausen of Hongkong, to MARY ELIZABETH, only daughter of Captain P. Klopfer, of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, and Mrs. Klopfer, of Shanghai.

On December 3rd, at Shanghai, ERNEST LEE ALLEN to FRANCES ETHEL, only daughter of the late Captain William Waddilove of Shanghai.

On December 5th, at Shanghai, ERNEST HARRY DOUGLAS DERRICK, Southampton, to MADELINE ETHEL, 5th daughter of Mrs. Limby, Shanghai.

On December 12th, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., SAM. HAMMOND, of Shanghai, to GERTRUDE WOOTTON, daughter of Robert Brown, Esq., of Macclesfield, England.

DEATHS.

On November 30th, at Cape Cami Light Station, EMIL FRANZ SCHMITT, 2nd Lightkeeper B., aged 33 years.

On December 10th, at the Government Civil Hospital, MCGREGOR SMITH, aged 74 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of Nov. 15th arrived per the s.s. Delhi, on Thursday the 12th instant.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

At the annual meeting of the Odd Volumes Society, held at the office of the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Bank Buildings, on Dec. 9th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard; Vice-President, Hon. Mr. F. H. May; Treasurer, Mr. W. H. Purcell; Hon. Secretary, Hon. Mr. Pollock, K.C.

Special Commissioner Yang Shih-oh'i has recommended Mr. Liu Tseh-sun, one of the prominent Chinese merchants in Siam, to the Throne as being the most suitable man for the post of Chinese Consul in Bangkok.

Signor Gianturco, Italian Minister for Public Works, is dying of cancer. The Pope inquires daily as to his condition. These inquiries are the first example of the kind from the Papacy towards a Minister of the King since the fall of the temporal power of the Holy See.

It is reported from Wuchang, capital of Hupeh province, that a sharp fight has taken place at Maanshan (about forty miles from Wuchang) between native Christian converts and miners who are working in a coal mine in the neighbourhood. There were no lives lost, however, and a company of soldiers has been dispatched by the authorities at Wuchang to the place in order to prevent a repetition of the trouble.

Mr. W. Macgregor-Smith, a pioneer of the East, died at the Hospital on Dec. 9th. The deceased gentleman, who was 74 years of age, has been a resident of the Colony since 1868. His connection with the East, however, dates from an earlier period, for prior to settling down in Hongkong he was engaged in the Yangtze trade. Shortly after his arrival Mr. Macgregor-Smith started a sugar works at East Point, and business was carried on successfully for a number of years. Then it passed into the hands of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., and Mr. Smith returned to Europe. The deceased leaves a wife and family, and three of his children were with him till the last. Two came down from Shanghai, a son and married daughter, while another daughter arrived from Europe a few days before his death. The sympathy of a large circle of friends and acquaintances will be extended to the bereaved family, and many residents will mourn the loss of an old and esteemed colonist.

On December 9th a native entered house No. 24, Shaukiwan Road, which is near the Belle View Police Station, evidently with the intention of burgling it. He was disturbed, however, and decamped after alarming the occupants. But he was in no hurry to depart, and next visited a house three or four doors further along. He had not been long in this house when a wild cry of "thief" was raised, and Lance Sergeant Fowler, who was patrolling in the vicinity at the time, saw a man run up the hillside and hide in some bushes. The policeman followed, captured him, and got him down to the road, where the native threw away a piece of iron. Then the prisoner was headed for the Belle View Police Station, but when he realised his destination he made frantic efforts to escape. Drawing a large pocket knife which he carried, he slashed at the hand which held his queue, inflicting a nasty gash. Then he threw away the knife and struggled with his captor, both men rolling on the ground. It took Lance Sergeant Fowler all his time to keep a grip on the Chinese, who was a powerful man, but eventually an Indian constable came to his assistance, and the native was removed to the station. The policeman had to proceed to the hospital immediately to get his hand attended to, and later it was found necessary to remove the Chinese, whose injuries are sufficient to detain him in hospital.

Li Yau, who resides at West Point, is the father of a little boy who has been ailing for sometime, and the serious condition of the son has caused the father no little anxiety. Chinese doctors have been called in, and medicines have been tried in vain, for with all the care and nursing bestowed on the infant he languishes. The poor father was at his wit's end considering what might be done to restore his son to health. Then the Chinese procession was announced to take place, and when he heard that the sacred dragon was to take part the parent took heart of grace, for could he but procure one of its scales this would be a talisman against all ills. He went to the procession on Dec. 7th, and saw women shoving infants beneath the hallowed monster. He asked one of the bearers to give him a scale, but the latter told him that he could not carry it and cut a slice off as well, and advised him to help himself. The father did, and vanished in the crowd as one of the attendants noticed the hole in the dragon's side. This attendant, in his wrath, seized an old opium smoker near, and accused him of cutting the dragon. The smoker denied it, and was willing to be searched. "Then who did," asked the attendant. "I did," said the culprit from the rear of the crowd, and held the scale on high. With this a number of infuriated attendants dashed through the crowd in pursuit of Li who made for No. 7 Police Station, and reached that haven of refuge just ahead of his pursuers. There matters were explained, but the police thought it advisable to detain Li for a few hours until the faithful attendants of the dragon were well out of the way. But the native was quite happy. He had secured a talisman which would restore his child to health, and has now every confidence that his boy will soon be well and strong.

The following is the statement of the receipts and expenditure in connection with the Chinese Procession (Committee Section).

To Subscription	\$ 29,354.95
To Premium on Banknotes	32.75
To Interest	28.99

\$ 29,416.69

By Expenses	16,706.59
By Subscription Alice Memorial Hospital	4,000.—
By Subscription Ya Ma Ti Hospital	4,000.—
By Subscription Public Dispensaries	4,710.10

\$ 29,416.69

Ho Kom Tong,
Hon. Treasurer.

SINGAPORE RATEPAYERS REBEL.

A Daily Press telegram, dated Singapore, December 10th, said:

The unofficial members of the Legislative Council are strenuously opposing the enactments of the new Stamps Ordinance, designed officially to meet the Budget deficit.

The council meeting at Government House yesterday lasted from 9.30 to midnight, the principle item of debate being the stamping rate for Bills of Lading.

Mr. T. S. Baker proposed that non-conference vessels be exempted, but his motion was defeated by eight to four.

The Hon. Mr. John Anderson's motion for entire deletion of the clause was similarly defeated.

AMERICANS AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, December 9th.)

The American Judge at Shanghai has left for Washington, and on the eve of his departure one of our English contemporaries at the northern port remarked: "Never has a public official holding office in Shanghai been more freely criticised, more fiercely assailed or more shamefully misrepresented and slandered than the departing Judge." The friends and admirers of Judge WILFLEY state that he goes to Washington to assist in an arrangement for making American law as it applies to China more definite and particular. His enemies say that he goes to answer an impeachment of his conduct in office. It is quite feasible that both statements may have their foundation in fact. Those who have been paying any attention to Judge WILFLEY's efforts to establish the American Court in China on a creditable footing cannot have failed to note that he has encountered numerous difficulties other than those deliberately put in his path by the forces of evil; and we hope that the result of his advice and assistance at headquarters will be that he can return to his straightforward and worthy task with all those difficulties smoothed away. Concerning the impeachment of Judge WILFLEY which his enemies so gladly and glibly publish, we fancy it gives his Honour as little concern as it gives us. We know a little about it, and had previously decided to take no notice of it; but now that there seems to be something like a conspiracy against one of the honestest Americans that Shanghai ever knew, we are constrained to refer to it. The mischief of it is that the mud-throwing is being joined in by people whose only vice is ignorance. They have nothing against the man, but when they see him in the pillory, they conclude that he must be a deserving target, and so they add their mite to the vituperative chorus. Here is how one of them co-operates with the dishonest and ulterior-minded critics.

His Honour did a good work, but he did it badly. His aim, the removal of a stain on the name of America, all his countrymen must support: but his indignant comments on certain institutions embraced not only the persons who carried on these institutions but all Judge Wilfley's nationals. Again, it is not the business of a self-made judicial avenger of his country's honour injudiciously to inform his countrymen that they are here only "on sufferance." American traders have proved as straightforward business men and as honest and honourable a class as any in China; when he states they are here "on sufferance" Judge Wilfley betrays ignorance. It is regrettable that his iconoclastic methods will now react in a set back to the good work he has accomplished; and that his foolish comment on the conditions under which foreigners live in China will give to ignorant agitators another weapon with which to attempt to sever the good relations between foreigners and Chinese. Another Judge as honourable and clean-minded but less brutally downright would be a greater success.

No one who knows in what a sink of iniquity American justice wallowed at Shanghai prior to Judge WILFLEY's advent will wonder that he has not escaped villification. It is a pathetic admission of the nature of his task that is revealed in that reference to his "honourable and clean-minded" character, and in the complaint that in grasping his nettle he has been too brutally downright. The matter with this admittedly upright Judge is that his methods have been too downright. He has not, when denouncing lies, called them terminological inexactitudes. In purifying his temple, he has used a scourge, instead of a feather duster. Therefore everything

he has ever said or done has given offence. In combatting the section of Shanghai's social evil which alone directly concerned him, he insulted all his nationals. To admit that there were one or two undesirable Americans in Shanghai was to tarnish the Stars and Stripes. A Pickwickian reference to the fact that in a manner of speaking foreigners were in China on sufferance was to impugn, to sundry guilty minds, the general honour of American merchants. He ought to have remembered that wool is not a safe topic of conversation at a sheepstealers' dinner party. To refer to the material "squeezes" of the mediæval church hundreds of years ago was to lacerate the pious feelings of twentieth century churchgoers, who thereupon, full of holy zeal and righteous wrath put in an impeachment that bore between every line of it the stigmata of ignorant malice and uncharitableness. Without any bias other than a leaning to fair play and truth we have watched Judge WILFLEY's career in Shanghai, and we wait with more than mere curiosity to see whether right or wrong is to win in this case, whether downright integrity or sidling snipe is to gain the counterance and protection of Washington. Meanwhile, if we had to do business involving the giving of credit or trust to Shanghai Americans, our test question would be: Are you pro-Wilfley or anti-Wilfley? To fail to appreciate a public official who patently has only to see his duty to go at it barehanded seems to us a prima facie indication of moral slackness.

THE EXCHANGE FLUCTUATIONS.

(Daily Press, December 10th.)

The present demand for gold in the United States has apparently brought about some not easily explained complications. Amongst other things it has led to a close understanding between the Banks of England and France. Some time ago we spoke of the probable coming about of such an arrangement as likely to render easier in England the effects of such a monetary crisis as the present, when a sudden demand for gold from without required precautions to be taken against a drain. Times have been that, while the course of business in England was being seriously disturbed owing to a sudden demand for gold from the United States, trade in France was actually stagnating owing to the superfluity of gold causing a plethora. Lately a more generous feeling of the advisability of mutual help between the two has sprung up, with manifest advantage to the two countries. The genius of the two peoples in this respect affords a curious instance of divergences mutually supplementing one another. Unlike the English, the French have a habit of preserving their bullion intact, while the English as persistently seek to economise it by keeping it liquid. The result has been that of late years many able financiers have viewed with apprehension the small reserves habitually kept by the Bank of England; which, notwithstanding the enormous increase in the volume of trade which has marked the last half century, have scarcely increased in amount; and many schemes have been suggested for increasing our liquid assets. Notwithstanding these efforts the amounts, though they have considerably increased lately in their totals, have by no means grown in proportion with the increment of the trade, so that when a sudden effort has to be made, as in the present case, to guard the interests of the trade at

some locality abroad, the whole home trade is momentarily disordered, and the ordinary facilities can only be obtained at ruinous rates of discount.

If, however, it have become customary in England to carry on vast operations on a minimum of actual coin, so much so as occasionally to come within dangerous limits of reaching the bottom, the system of huge corporations working on each other's presumed condition of financial stability, and by such measures striving to economise actual capital, has been carried to a still greater extent: and this on account of the prevailing custom of concentrating the business of the country, even in matters of retail, in the hands of large "trusts"—many with nominal capitals greater than that of most European states, has been carried to an extreme. If it could be assured that behind the nominal capital of many of these vast undertakings there were any available liquid assets, the evil would be minimised: but many recent exposures have shown that frequently, if not invariably, such is not the case, and that the "trusts" have, too often, been like a pack of cards resting on one another for support, and as soon as one was displaced the rest finding nothing solid to rest on have severally collapsed. As is but natural under such conditions, gold, being the only article on which any edifice of stability could be founded, has appreciated in value proportionably with the necessity of obtaining it, and this, of course, means a shrinkage in the present value of all other commodities which may come into competition with it, such as stocks and shares and metals generally. It is here difficult to clearly separate cause and effect, as for instance in the case of copper, the fall in the artificially enhanced value of which had much to do with the starting of the financial panic. It is none the less true that the later fall in value of the metal is largely the effect of the enhanced demand for more gold. Tin has followed on the same lines, and so has silver: and this latter has grievously affected the markets in China, where silver continues to be the arbiter of trade. That this fall in silver is immediately the effect of the enhanced demand for gold is curiously exemplified in the one case where silver is of value independent of its use in the arts. The exchange price of gold as a metal in comparison with the price of silver, merely as bullion, has been steadily rising, but the same result has not come about with regard to silver in the shape of Mexican dollars, the form in which it enters mainly into trade in north and middle China, clean Mexican dollars being quoted at five per cent over their equivalent weight in bullion, although of actually inferior fineness. Here as in Europe and America the want is not of metal, but of currency. Indeed the scarcity of actual money, and the excess of ordinarily current promises to pay, which commonly pass as currency, is beginning to be almost as pressing in China as in Europe and America. But these dollars are in number becoming scarcer, since the Mexican Government has withdrawn them from currency, so that there seems some prospect of their following the example of the once precious "Pillar" dollar, which rose to a premium of over thirty per cent over its intrinsic value as metal before being absorbed in the tael of to-day. Apparently in a quite capricious manner food stuffs, which might be expected to follow the example of metals generally, and become exchangeable for less quantities of gold, are actually quoted higher, so that the money market may be said to be unsettled in more than one

direction; but here other economic causes are at work. Although the circulation of gold has been arrested by the increasing desire to hold, this tendency has had, of course, no effect on the demand for food stuffs, as the same number of mouths require to be filled. The tendency to safeguard whatever gold is available has, however, had a disastrous effect on the population at large, inasmuch as there is a general tendency to reduce to a minimum all current expenses; and in consequence thousands of ordinary wage earners are thrown out of employment without any realised surplus of capital to fall back on. Here again the impossibility of separating cause and effect increases the difficulty of effecting relief. The throwing out of employment of thousands of working men is on one side the direct effect of increased need of gold, while on the other it cannot but have the effect of diminishing the flow, and thereby increasing the stringency of the market. It is thus that even a country so remote from the contingencies that have created the present panic as China is made to suffer for the sins of the false financial system of the United States. For the first time, probably, in the financial history of China, the Government has found itself called upon to take measures to ease the strain in Newchwang. This may be the beginning of a happier era for China, but such measures, unless undertaken with a more profound knowledge of the economic questions at the bottom of all these movements, it is well to recall, may be productive of more harm than good; still it is well that Government should awake to some sense of its responsibility, and the effort is one of the signs that the conscience of the Government is at last awakening. We have always been of those who hoped for the best, and are not yet prepared to give up reform in China as hopeless or impossible. There is the stuff there, but there is vast accumulation of vis inertia to be overcome, and China evidently, though amidst many mistakes largely proceeding from long disuse, is evidently beginning to discover that she is not yet dead as a nation.

FIRST PHILIPPINE'S CARNIVAL.

(Daily Press, December 11th.)

The Manila papers are co-operating with noticeable enthusiasm to keep the forthcoming Philippines carnival well in the public eye. We have already published the elaborate prospectus, showing what big things are to be done during the week commencing Monday February 3rd. It is quite refreshing to find local differences ignored, local squabbles dropped, and all hands united in a pull-together mood to do something for the prosperity of the islands they occupy. At carnival time the curmudgeon has to exercise self-restraint; the irritable man must not obtrude himself; the general tone is one of tolerance, of indulgence, of acquiescence by all and sundry in the little nonsense that in homeopathic doses is believed to make better and wiser men of us all. Here, two months before "the Monarch of the Occident" is timed to call upon "the Monarch of the Orient" at Manila, we find the people of that sunny city wreathed in preparatory smiles of anticipatory hospitality. The guest chambers are being prepared with the energy born of a determination to give the visitors a good time. From house to house, from office to office, from editorial sanctum to editorial sanctum, we get the impression as of people calling to one another, "there's going to be a party." Lest this should appear exaggerated to such readers as

have had no opportunity of noting the signs we have seen, we may mention that mail matter that otherwise makes no reference to the approaching fête is, when received from Manila, now in most cases decorated with rubber-stamp impressions and mottoes to prevent us forgetting what is to be. The idea is the same that prompts some pious people to enclose tracts in all their correspondence. From Manila, the broadcast gospel is the 'good news' that the time is at hand for the first annual Philippines carnival. All are welcome—even Japanese; at least, so we trust; for if the venom of race hatred is permitted to besmear this fraternal manifestation of businesslike enterprise, then the whole thing becomes a mockery and a farce, like the old story that the valley of the Mississippi offers hospitality to all mankind, or at least that part of it that was supposed to be writhing under the oppression of feudal and effete Yurup. Though American ports are daily turning back undesirable immigrants, though the cry is America for the Americans, it might not be so if the biggest thing in Empires were promoting a carnival. Manila wants visitors. It is sending out into the highways and byways of the world invitations to come and see. It is a good idea. Far Eastern society is supposed to vote "calling" a bore, but perhaps that was an invention of somebody whose calls were not returned. Certainly from the international point of view, the more the merrier. Let there be more of these parties, these carnivals, these international visits. To see more of each other is to know better. The Chinese carnival last week must have persuaded at least some visitors that the white people of Hongkong are not such devilish devils after all. The Manila carnival will do good; the Japan exhibition of 1912 will do good; all that sort of thing does good. But say—it seems appropriate here to use a colloquialism picked up from Manila visitors to Hongkong—what about that poll-tax of eight pesos on aliens? Those of us, British, Japanese, Chinese, or other, who hasten to mingle with the merry mob at the first Philippine carnival, are we to be welcomed as friendly guests or taxed as alien intruders? Does Manila want us, or only our money? We are not from Missouri, but we "want to know."

WHY WAR?

(Daily Press, December 12th.)

The justificatory excuse for a good deal of national expansion or colony grabbing has been that the centres of civilization are becoming overcrowded. The alternatives for an overpopulated country are said to be Malthusianism or colonization. RICHARD WHITEING, the John the Baptist of the saner sort of socialism, has just published, through GEO. BELL & SONS of London, a remarkable book called "All Moonshine," in which his "astral" body explores this "over-peopled sphere" to some purpose. Alarmed by a newspaper scare-head, he wonders "how soon would the last new baby squeeze the first old inhabitant off our orb into infinite space." He is relieved to read, while going further into the subject, that "at four persons to the square yard, the entire population of the globe, standing shoulder to shoulder, could find room and to spare in the Isle of Wight." If every living human being in the whole world could move about comfortably in that mere dot of a speck of land, what could they not do in the verdant valleys and prairies of the continents, if properly distributed? Why be overcrowded? Why

kill each other to make room? The calculations were as correct as they were startling, however. The Isle of Wight has 93,905 acres of solid standing ground. At 4,840 square yards to the acre this works out at 454,500,200 square yards, to accommodate with comfortable standing room at four to the square yard—and "the military measure for soldiers crossing bridges in close marching order is one to the square foot," or nine to the square yard—no less than eighteen hundred and eighteen millions of people. In 1883 the population of the globe was put at a trifle under fifteen hundred millions. An increase of three hundred millions is hardly possible in that time, but assume it, and there is the possibility of the Isle of Wight as calculated. This "indicement of the scheme of things was too severe" for Mr. WHITEING.

"It would have been strange enough if a whole country of the larger sort—Spain, or France, or Austria, even the huge belt of fertility in the United States—had served to give standing-room to a race of man that could not manage to live in comfort on the entire surface of the planet. But an island that was at best but a geological afterthought! The implications were too frightful in regard to the sanity of mankind."

There was no getting out of it, though. The figures stood, and stand. Think of the tens of thousands of habitable and fertile acres to spare. Picture the peoples marshalled into that fragment of an English county, and then "all the huge mileage of depopulated Europe, of mighty Asia, of the Americas, oh, the oppression of thought of giant Africa, with the isles, hundreds of them bigger than the rendezvous, lying ready to give them harbourage, and, as one might have hoped, provender, under sun or stars. Such a handful is this unfeedable, unlodgable population of the world; such an unspeakably poor provider is Mother Nature who has them all to board."

Mr. WHITEING thinks of all that, and makes due allowance for the wide inhospitable areas of the world. Still, with all that, there is the huge balance of the earth fair and beautiful, "limitless for all present and reasonably prospective needs of man." Then why wars? Mr. WHITEING slept, and had a vision. All the peoples of the world, every mother's son and daughter of them did assemble in the Isle of Wight, in their "astral" forms. The ninety millions of United States Americans were comfortably standing in a very small corner, yet with all their nearly four millions of square miles at home they seem afraid of being crowded out by a few thousand Asiatics! Leaving the astral population of the world for an hour or two, massed in the Isle of Wight, Mr. WHITEING takes a flight round the world to see how their physical counterparts are doing. He saw the great stretches of space where there seemed no sign of human occupation, a huge incalculable mileage of fertile land where next to nothing pastured or grew, "like a world waiting to begin in human life, and this even in the most thickly peopled parts." Europe measures close on four million miles, "and yet all this almost unimaginable harbourage of human kind cannot give three square meals a day to a population that can be folded with the greatest ease in a corner of the Isle of Wight." Russia was even then sending the hat round for famine-stricken populations. Who, he asks, will audit the accounts of the bounteous earth? He looked at the undeveloped miles of prolific Manchuria, and marvelled that Russia should fight for more. China alone seemed sufficient for its own millions, more than sufficient. Doubtless the Chinese saw the foolishness of wars of expansion as Mr. WHITEING sees it, hence

their contempt of soldiering. After witnessing the grisly horrors of the fighting round Port Arthur, and sparing his readers none of them,—a salutary shock, no doubt, but they can always shut their eyes—He returns to the ghostly crowds still waiting on the Isle of Wight. They too, had got the war fever! They had not kept to their formations, four to the yard, all comfortable and by no means inconvenienced by alien elbows. The sovereigns began the movement that made trouble, and the silly example was soon followed.

"One British middle-class, the bulwark of the State, had shown peculiar ingenuity by inventing a new way of measuring the space at their disposal. Why not, they argued, take it lying down—that is to say, by stretching themselves full length on the ground, instead of standing like their humbler fellow-creatures? It was inexcusable, for our entire population, a mere handful of forty millions odd, were most comfortably settled in a space as large as a metropolitan borough, and wanted nothing but the quiet mind to be as happy as the day was long. The better sort lay down accordingly, and this, of course, led them to encroach still more on the standing room assigned to their weaker brethren, and to press these unfortunate persons as close as herrings in a barrel. The latter protested with cries of 'Fair play,' and a few of them in their desperation went so far as to offer resistance. Their oppressors, however, not content with lying down, now began to kick, and they were not long in making miniature clearances about them which corresponded in some degree to the parks, game forests and other domains of luxurious settlement which their originals enjoyed on the mainland. It was positively heartbreaking to see the poor creatures who had lost in the scramble shut up in their ever-narrowing prison houses, their astral outlines all blurred and fused out of recognition in the fearful endeavour to stand a dozen to the square yard. Their victorious assailants meanwhile having got what they wanted, immediately resumed the standing posture, and passed a short ordinance to the effect that no one was to take things lying down any more."

So that was the answer to the question, Why war? How war was averted, in this dream, how it is to be averted in reality, is another story, though it is all unfolded in this fascinating abstract of moonshine. We have quoted quite enough for our readers to think about and ponder over. It is worth that at least. It may not be palatable to many of us, but it can do none of us any harm. If this planet's surface is really "virtually uninhabited," and we know it is—if it has boundless possibilities for the support of all its human life, and we know it has—is war really necessary, as we have been supposing? If not, is it foolish even to dream of what Mr. WHITEING calls the "simple duty of restraint, without unnecessary violence, of any clan, province, state, or empire, venturing to take any quarrel whatever into its own hands, or refusing to submit any difference to the arbitrament of an areopagus of humanity"?

CHINA'S ARCH INTRIGUER.

(Daily Press, December 13th.)

As we already more than half suspected, that veteran intriguer SHENG KUNG-PAO, or as he used to be better known by his personal appellation, SHENG HSWAN-HWEI, turns out to be at the bottom of all the artificial trouble about the Soochow-Hangchow-Ningpo Railway, and the agitation against the agreed on foreign loan, which by his dupes has been put down to an offended patriotism, turns out to be of his own personal concoction. With the sole exception of the late LI HUNG-CHANG, no statesman of any position in China has so persistently intrigued to prevent his country

from ever entering into cordial relations with Europe. With all his affectation of foreign ways, SHENG has remained through life a reactionary, and wherever he had the opportunity has always thrown in his lot to obstruct or hinder any attempt at progress for its own sake, or unless he saw the way clear to his own profit. In this particular matter of railways he has had a special grudge. At the time of the war between China and Japan, when it became a matter of necessity to improve the means of communicating from one part of the empire to another, SHENG, being the only person in the empire prepared to finance the affair, contrived to get the telegraph administration into his own hands. How he made use of the opportunity is well known; suffice it here to say SHENG never gave any account of his management, but treated the whole affair as his own private property. By one means or other he was sufficiently powerful at Court to resist all attempt of the reforming party to have the service put under proper control; and to the present day no-one knows how much or how little SHENG made out of the concern. Lately, however, as we have had occasion to remark, SHENG who had been deprived of his monopoly, administered his last kick to the new administration. The new manager with a better knowledge of administration than ever SHENG possessed, and finding that the telegraph rates in China were higher than in any other country, and that the internal trade of the Empire was being unduly hampered, decided to lower the rates, and afford facilities to the private trader. The scheme was eminently statesmanlike, and was an evidence of the growing desire of her best statesmen to improve the internal communications of the Empire. Here was no possible pretence that foreign interests were being in the slightest degree concerned, and in fact the object of the reduction was to advantage the native trader and the native trade, the present rates being almost prohibitive, and the service never used by the native trader unless under exceptional circumstances. The proposed reduction was looked upon as a boon by the small trader, and would have been in full operation but for the pretended patriot SHENG KUNG-PAO, who, finding he could not otherwise prevent the reduction, yet determined to be obstructive, took the course of memorialising the Throne. He had, it appears, had it thrown in his face that the telegraph system, which he had been permitted to mismanage for some thirteen years, had proved such an utter failure, that he took this method of preventing its being a success under any other manager.

Under somewhat similar conditions SHENG KUNG-PAO contrived to get into his hands the intended line between Shanghai and Soochow, which the Government saw was required in the State interests. Thirty years ago the first railway in China had commenced running between Shanghai and Woosung, a short line of some eight or nine miles long, but meant as an instalment of the more important line. By a series of intrigues, in which LI HUNG-CHANG, and Tso TSUNG-TANG, the semi-barbarous Viceroy at the time at Nanking, distinguished themselves, the line was handed over to the representatives of the Chinese government, and was immediately dismantled and the rails and rolling stock sent down to Formosa to rot on the beach. SHENG was at the time not a sufficiently important man to have a finger in the pie. He had done some things in the way of financing for the Government then sadly pressed to make both ends meet, and so

managed to get himself appointed to the railway that was to be. SHENG's management was a model of everything that ought not to be, but SHENG's own policy of not permitting accounts to be kept, prevented any one from knowing anything about the finances of the line—how much it cost or what it earned. Meanwhile the line made no progress towards Nanking, and as the Government wanted this, and SHENG as usual was in the way, he was got rid of here likewise,—very much to the advantage of the line,—and of his country. When the little original line was running between Shanghai and Woosung every care was taken to make it popular. Fares were low enough to suit the native who willingly gave his 100 cash for the journey; his marketing needs were attended to, and he had his market trains both ways; in fact double the number of trains were run then to what are found more than sufficient for the present traffic. The consequence of this was that the trains were crowded with the country people, and the accommodation in the way of rolling stock was taxed up to the last axle. When SHENG attained to the control all this was changed; the fare that used to be a hundred cash was raised to twenty-five cents; the number of trains was halved, and the times of departure made to suit no-one, while the station at Shanghai—worst folly of all—through simple jealousy of the Municipal Council, was placed at such a distance, and put in such an inaccessible position, that the railway was found to suit no-one's convenience, and the market people who had been its principal supporters almost ceased to make use of it. It was in fact a blank failure, and for some time certainly did not pay its own working expenses. But SHENG never forgot having been turned out, and determined, as in the case of the telegraph, to have his revenge. How much SHENG's railway cost, no-one except SHENG himself can tell, but with the mismanagement of which it was the result there is no doubt that it cost far more than it ought. A gentleman with no knowledge or experience of railway work was nominally appointed engineer but most of the work was left to take care of itself. Rails were rolled by machinery made expressly for the purpose from iron mined in Hupeh; it goes without saying that by the time they were laid, in addition to being of the worst quality, they cost probably four times at least the proper price. Engines of inferior style were imported without supervision from America, and inferior rolling stock manufactured in Chili was put into the service, all rude and utterly unfit for the suburban traffic that it had to carry.

This is the man who now appears as the Chinese patriot who desires to free his country from the evil of having a good line of railway laid by competent engineers with an honest staff! As a fact the terms on which the syndicate were prepared to make the railway were most favourable for the Chinese government, who, if impelled by this newest and most disreputable intrigue of the old arch-intriguer SHENG to cancel the contract and pay forfeit, will never again have an opportunity of making a contract on such favourable terms. One of the points on which the enlightened (?) authority SHENG has been trying to excite the minds of his dupes is that the Nanking Railway has cost so much money! Probably no one in the world could plead on the subject with worse grace than SHENG HSWAN-HWEI himself. How much the line to Woosung cost no-one, as we have said, but SHENG will ever know. The money was obtained in an equally irregular manner by all manner of shifts

and expedients, so that the only thing we can know of the burden on the province is that it was sufficient to satisfy SHENG himself, not an easy task, and not SHENG alone but all those who were at all interested; and, it is important not to forget, after all the work turned out a disgraceful failure.

With the new plan, all the expenditure will be carefully kept account of and the accounts checked and presented to the Government, so that the burden will at least be known and properly distributed. More, instead of having in a supposed attempt at cheapness a botched job presented to it, the Government and people will know that they are getting the full value for their money, and are having a properly equipped and serviceable line presented to them. The American people had the other day an experience regarding cheap engineering which it would be well for the agitators in this dishonest attempt to shuffle out of an honourable engagement, to bear in mind. It is perhaps as well that H. E. SHENG KUNG-PAO has at last shown his hand as the instigator of the movement. Every one who has followed his career will understand what that means.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Dec. 10th at the Board Room. The Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson (president) presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. A. W. Brewin (Registrar-General), Dr. F. Clark, (Medical Officer of Health), Dr. H. Macfarlane (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Captain Lyons (Captain Superintendent of Police), Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Mr. H. Humphreys, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, secretary.

A MENACE TO HEALTH.

Mr. HUMPHREYS, pursuant to notice, asked the following questions:—

(a) Does the Medical Officer of Health consider the filthy habit of spitting in buildings and public vehicles which obtains universally amongst the lower classes of Chinese detrimental to the Public Health?

(b) Is not this habit accountable in great measure for the spread of phthisis, diphtheria and other diseases, and if so, what does the percentage of deaths arising annually from such diseases (that is, diseases capable of being propagated by dried infected spum) bear to the total mortality?

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH replied.

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, to some extent. Phthisis, 9.7 per cent of the total deaths. Diphtheria, 0.12 per cent.

Hon Mr. HEWETT minuted—It would be interesting if any member of the Board could suggest some means by which this objectionable habit could be checked.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—Sir, That being so I would ask you whether it wouldn't be possible for this Board to recommend the Government to pass regulations making it a punishable offence for Chinese to spit in public buildings, or semi-public buildings, such as Alexandra Buildings or the Hotel Mansions. As things are at present, these magnificent structures are practically converted into huge spittoons, and you cannot move outside your own office without seeing it all round you. As the Medical Officer of Health is of opinion that it is detrimental to public health, I think the Board ought to take action. My idea is that if coolies, or anybody found guilty were fined, and on every floor in such buildings notices to that effect could be put up, I think it would check it to a very great extent. I don't say it would stop it altogether, because they would do it anywhere if they thought they were not seen, but it would, I think, act as a check. At the present moment there is no punishment.

The PRESIDENT—I might mention that this question has been before the Board on previous occasions. On October 3rd, 1901, I brought this question up, and the matter was then referred to the Government, who decided that the only thing to be done was to issue notices broadcast

among the Chinese in the Colony, and notices were issued by the Registrar-General's Department. The President then read a translation of a Chinese notice and continued—That Chinese notice was practically disseminated all through the Colony, and I don't know that we could really do more. If we made it a punishable offence it would cost a great deal of work on the police, as it is so very common. Practically every Chinaman spits.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I did not mean on the roads. That notice you have just read was circulated in 1901, and applied principally to public thoroughfares. Since 1901 all these large buildings have been erected, which are more or less public, as anybody can walk in and out of them, and it is in regard to those buildings that I seek protection. I recognise as regards the streets that it is hopeless to do anything, but I think as regards tramcars and these buildings I have mentioned something might be done.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I am inclined to think that the Board have power to make regulations to prevent spitting, because the Board is given powers to make byelaws to prevent as far as possible the spread of contagious disease. My first thought was, when this was suggested by Mr. Humphreys, that that would be the proper way to deal with the matter, but only within the last few days I have seen in a metropolitan paper from London, that although the London County Council made byelaws and distributed them broadcast to prohibit spitting in public places, practically no prosecutions have been instituted, the difficulty being that a person cannot be arrested. A person has to be served with a summons, and that is generally a very difficult procedure. I think the police could deal with the matter better. I see no difficulty with regard to the matter, however, in public vehicles and in public buildings, but a difficulty might possibly arise in regard to private buildings such as Alexandra Buildings and the Hotel Mansions.

Captain LYONS—The police could not make an arrest there.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—But they certainly could in the City Hall, or in a place open to public entertainment.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—If made punishable in semi-private buildings I would guarantee to largely defeat it in any building I had to do with.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—The Board might make a byelaw prohibiting spitting in buildings, and the police might have power to deal with it in public buildings, streets and vehicles. The name and address of a person would have to be taken, and he would have to be served with a summons.

Mr. HOOPER—I am quite in favour of what Mr. Humphreys has suggested, and I have no doubt the whole Board are, but I do not see how it is workable in these buildings. Supposing it was a private house! If the police were allowed to patrol private buildings it would create a deal of friction. But if a man was found doing it on a public staircase, or on a staircase common to several tenants, that man might be given into custody.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—It appears to me that in dealing with the question of spitting it is quite impossible for us to legislate in any way at all except insofar as it is possible to put spitting on the same footing as committing a public nuisance. We might suggest the thing to the Government, but I cannot conceive any legislation which will do away with this filthy habit so common among Asiatics, and which will be carried on in private houses, stairways and offices even if it is not permitted in the street.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—It is not proposed to prevent it in the street. That is impossible.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I don't see that we can make any legislation for it. It is outside the bounds of practical politics. I am very much in favour of doing so, if possible, but I cannot conceive how it is possible.

Mr. HUMPHREYS—I'd like to try the experiment in my building if I had power to run these men in.

The Captain Superintendent of Police, the Medical Officer of Health, the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Humphreys were appointed a committee to consider and advise on the subject.

LIGHTING OF DWELLINGS.

Messrs. Palmer and Turner wrote stating that they had submitted a plan for the approval of the Building Authority for altering the upper floors of godowns 397a and 397b, Queen's Road West, into first class domestic dwellings with open spaces and yards in accordance with the requirements of the Ordinance. The rooms in the new building were lighted from the central yard, about 12 feet 1 inch in width. The architects sought a modification of section 153 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, and asked that this width be counted as external air for the purpose of lighting the six rooms. The rooms being on the upper floors would receive the light over the roof at a good angle, and they considered it preferable that they should be lighted by lateral windows from the yard, just under 13 feet in width, than by skylights in the roof which were invariably a source of trouble in a building. The architects also requested a modification if it were necessary to allow the new yards being placed as shown on the plan, instead of all at the rear of the house as required by the Ordinance. This modification was purely technical, and they thought it would readily be admitted that the arrangements for the space as shown, was infinitely better than if the strict letter of the Ordinance was adhered to, and the whole yard placed at the rear.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and Mr. LAU CHU-PAK recommended granting.

Mr. HOOPER saw no objection to granting, but thought the plan incomplete.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT thought a scavenging lane should be provided.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—It would be futile to refuse the application for a modification of external air requirements as no reference is made in Messrs. Palmer and Turner's letter to the omission of a scavenging lane. They presumably intend to regard the houses as semi-detached, in which case scavenging lanes are not required provided there are side lanes four feet wide extending the full depth of the building. It was obviously intended that there should be access to these side lanes, but in the present case there is no access to Whitty Street, or to the lane on the east side of the block. I do not consider that the houses can be regarded as semi-detached and would urge that the owner be required to provide scavenging lanes.

Consideration of this matter was deferred owing to the absence of the Vice-President.

MARKET LIMITS.

Inspector J. A. LYONS raised the question of hawking vegetables in the immediate vicinity of Taiko ktsui market, as the stallholders therein complained of the unfair competition, and it was put forward as a cause for the empty stalls. He suggested that the whole of Taikoktsui should be placed out of bounds for hawkers.

Dr. MACFARLANE concurred.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL thought that limits should be fixed, but of no larger area than those at Hunghom and Yaumati. He also suggested that limits should be placed round the Mongkoktsui market.

Mr. HOOPER was of opinion that the number of licences should be limited.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT thought that the limit should be extended, and did not consider 100 yards on either side of the markets to be sufficient.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—The limiting of the number of hawkers licences was tried some years ago, and found impracticable.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—With regard to my minute, Sir, the limit I spoke of was a limit of area, not a limit in the number of hawkers. It is clearly our business to try to drive people into the markets so long as there is accommodation. That being so, I don't think a limit of 100 yards is sufficient.

Mr. HOOPER—In what way is it impracticable to limit the number of hawkers?

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—As a matter of fact what happened was that there was a sort of female suffrage. When I refused a licence to a hawker he used to send his aunt, mother and wives, and they besieged the Registrar-General in his office (laughter).

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—We have got a Registrar-General who knows how to hold his own.

The PRESIDENT—What limit would you suggest, Mr. Hewett?

Mr. HEWETT—I am not prepared to say. It depends upon the area. I should say a quarter of a mile area.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—Two hundred yards seems to me an excessive distance. I don't think there are limits as large as that anywhere in the town. One hundred yards is quite enough to prevent obstruction of the market entrances.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—I take it that that is not the idea of the Government at all. The idea is to keep a proper sanitary control over the food supplies of the population, and to that end the Government have gone to enormous expense in building markets. The Government want the people, as far as possible, to buy wholesome food in a sanitary condition in the market rather than to buy from filthy hawkers. Hawkers are allowed to trade only in outside places far from the markets, and where it is unreasonable to ask a man to walk so far to buy his food. I take it that it is not unreasonable to ask a man to walk even four hundred yards to buy food from a market.

Dr. MACFARLANE thought hawkers were not necessary in the village of Taikoktsui at all.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—We cannot go behind the Ordinance, which specifically protects these vegetable hawkers.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—If the Ordinance is wrong we can recommend that it be amended.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—We cannot make use of our power to drive them into the markets. It would be better to make an order that hawkers should not trade near markets.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT moved that hawkers be not allowed to trade within a radius of 220 yards of a market.

The PRESIDENT seconded.

The REGISTRAR-GENERAL—I am opposed to that. I think we are quite beyond our rights in acting as we are at present. As I said, these vegetable hawkers are specially protected. It is laid down by law that they need not go into markets and it is not for us to try to get round that law as proposed. There are police regulations made to prevent undue competition near market places. We should not extend the limits any further than is necessary to see the object carried out.

The motion, on being put to the meeting, was carried.

THE TANK QUESTION.

On October 29th the Sanitary Board passed the following motion.—“That the Government be requested to make rules under the Waterworks Ordinance to regulate the placing of water tanks in back yards”, and as a result the following regulation was made by the Governor-in-Council:—

(a) No cistern or tank shall be constructed or maintained in any building situated in the rider main district without the previous sanction in writing of the Water Authority.

(b) Every such cistern or tank intended to contain a supply of water for domestic purposes shall be of iron of a minimum thickness of one-eighth of an inch, and of a capacity not exceeding 100 gallons: it shall not be erected in any yard or other open space provided for the building in accordance with the requirements of any ordinance: its position shall be subject to the approval of the Water Authority, and it shall be raised not less than six feet above the floor level, and shall be provided with a closely fitting iron cover.

(c) Every such cistern or tank intended to contain a supply of water for trade purposes shall be constructed in such a manner and position, and with such materials as the Water Authority may in each case require.

(d) Every cistern or tank, whether intended for domestic or for trade purposes shall be cleaned out and limewashed internally to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Board not less than twice a year. The cleaning out and limewashing to be done during the months of September and March.

(e) Any person responsible for the construction or maintenance of any cistern constructed or maintained in contravention of any of the provisions of the Waterworks Ordinance, 1903, or of any regulation made thereunder, shall remove such cistern within seven days from the receipt of a written notice from the Water Authority requiring him to do so.

The MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—I do not think it would vitiate the regulations at

all if the words “situated in any rider main district” were omitted from regulation (a). (b) might contain, after the word “erected” in the fourth line the words “except with the permission of the Sanitary Board.” I would also add at the end of this resolution the words “and with a tap for drawing off the water.” With regard to (d) it is customary to cleanse and limewash iron water tanks periodically to keep them free from vegetable growths, and I have never heard of anyone experiencing any ill effects from the minute amount of lime which might possibly become dissolved in the water immediately after the tank had been so limewashed.

Mr. HOOPER—These regulations must be discussed.

Mr. LAU CHU-PAK—Regulation (a) sounds something like class legislation. It should be applied throughout the Colony. Regulation (d)—Does limewashing stimulate the appetite? If not, why is it considered advisable to give people a solution of limewash twice a year for culinary and trade purposes?

Consideration deferred.

THE LANDING OF CATTLE.

The PRESIDENT submitted a minute suggesting certain alterations to the byelaws dealing with the importation and examination of cattle. At present infected cattle can only be landed at Yaumati and Kennedytown, and he suggested adding the words “or other place appointed by the Board.” He also suggested the substitution of the word “premises” for the word place in byelaw No 12, as the word premises was clearly defined in the ordinance and would include any vessel lying in the harbour.

The PRESIDENT—This has arisen in connection with the steamer *Loong Sang* which brought some infected cattle to the Colony. On looking into these byelaws they did not seem quite definite enough, and they could be made more definite I think, if the alterations suggested were made. At present, according to the byelaws, cattle must be either taken to Kennedytown or Yaumati. That can be got over by adding the words “or other appointed place.”

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Appointed by whom?

The PRESIDENT—By the Board.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—Regarding the word premises, I would point out that place includes premises, but premises does not include a place. If you say a place and/or premises, it will be all right.

The PRESIDENT—Premises includes a place if you look at the definition.

Hon. Mr. HEWETT—The ordinary man does not understand premises including a place. A lawyer may say it does, but a lawyer is a peculiar person.

It was decided to refer the matter to the Crown Solicitor and the Medical Officer of Health.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday December 9th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A PARTNERSHIP DISPUTE.

This was an action by the Kwong Fung Wo firm against the Wing Ki Cheong and an issue between the plaintiff firm and Chan Mau-chi, otherwise Chan Pui Sin-tong, and Yim Wai-tak, alias Yim Ping kai alias Yim Quon, to decide whether the latter were partners in the Wing Ki Cheong.

Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Mr. Sargent (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., instructed by Mr. Otto Kong Sing, for the defendants.

Plaintiffs' case having concluded, Sir Henry Berkeley raised a point regarding the admissibility of certain evidence which had been adduced, and quoted authorities in support of his contentions. He put the proposition to the Court that the statement of one partner could not be used against the other. It was distinctly laid down in Lindley that the Court could not receive the answer of one alleged partner, in Chancery, in evidence to establish a partnership. Once a partnership was established, however, such admission was receiv-

able. A *prima facie* case meant a case which established a partnership unless it was rebutted. He put it to the Court that no evidence had been adduced, and certainly not against Yim Quon. Was his Lordship warranted in coming to the conclusion that a man was a partner in the firm because he sat at a Chinese feast and acted as host, or would a jury be justified in coming to such a conclusion on such grounds?

His Lordship—I should leave that to a jury, knowing what we must know. It is uncontradicted; that being so, that would be sufficient to admit other evidence.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I would now refer your Lordship to Taylor on Evidence. You must not, in coming to any conclusion be in any way—

Mr. Slade—My friend is simply beating the air.

Sir Henry Berkeley (to his Lordship)—I don't think you heard my proposition. It was obscured by my friend's interruption. Taylor says the existence of a joint interest which is disputed cannot be established by one of the parties sought to be charged, but must be shown by independent proof. I take it that you don't show a thing by independent proof if you show it partly by independent proof. Until your Lordship has evidence before you sufficient to prove that one man is a partner you should not listen to the statements of others. I would ask your Lordship to dismiss the case without calling upon us.

Mr. Slade—I don't think your Lordship should come to the decision of this case with the confusion which my learned friend has tried to raise in your mind with regard to the difference of an admission of evidence given by a partner. The admission of a partner in the sense used by Taylor is an admission made somewhere or other, and proved by outside evidence—by people who have heard him make a statement. Admission and confession are on the same footing in treatises on evidence. Your Lordship is well aware that in the old days in England no person pecuniarily interested in an issue could give evidence at all. It was thought to be conducive to justice and the prevention of false swearing that the plaintiff, defendant and other parties interested should not be eligible to give evidence on oath. But even in those days one partner was a competent witness to prove the existence of a partnership against another man. Pun Sik-ye gets in the box and gives the names of his partners. The list includes the name of Yim Quon.

His Lordship—That is evidence proving it beyond hearsay.

Mr. Slade—Certainly. He says Chan Mau-chi and Yim Quon were partners. That is not an admission in the sense of the word admission used by Taylor. That is direct evidence sworn on oath. Under the strictest rule of the old Common Law one partner was a competent witness against another.

His Lordship—A point which occurs to me is this; that I cannot enter a non-suit if there is any thread left unravelled during the course of the plaintiffs' case. The partnership book has been put in, and until that is cleared up it seems to me that it is impossible to say there is no case, because I have to see whether there is any case, or possibility of a case, on the evidence before the Court. I must take the whole evidence. I think on that technical ground I could not non-suit, although I have very grave doubts in the case of Yim Quon.

Mr. Slade—Of course, my Lord I put it to your Lordship that it is a weak case.

Sir Henry Berkeley said the case for the defence was that neither Chan Mau-chi nor Yim Quon were at any time partners in the Wing Ki Cheong. Yim Quon was the landlord of the premises in which the Wing Ki Cheong carried on business, and for which they paid him \$165 a month. That was admitted by the sole witness against the defendants. Chan Mau-chi was the owner of the shop adjoining the Wing Ki Cheong, and he rented to that firm a room in his shop for \$30 a month. That fact was also admitted. The room that he rented to the Wing Ki Cheong, which he visited occasionally, was locked and barred and there was no communication between his shop and the Wing Ki Cheong by the medium of this room. The onus of proof that these men were partners was of course, on the plaintiffs. But by the course the case had taken, and by the

suggestions of forgery and fraud—and fraud as a rule should be proved and not suggested—they had thrown upon them the onus of proving that they were not partners in the Wing Ki Cheong, and they would proceed to do so, lest in omitting to do so they should be prejudiced in the eyes of the Court. The partnership in the Wing Ki Cheong was established originally, as the extract from the Registrar-General's books would show, by three persons. The witness Pun Sik-chi, had nothing whatever to do with the origination of the firm. This would be corroborated by the fact that his name was not one of the three original ones given to the Registrar-General.

His Lordship—But that is not a register of partners; it is a register of householders.

Sir Henry Berkeley—It is a register of householders, but householders are shopkeepers and masters of shops. They are required to give their names, trades and occupations. I put this in as uncorroborative evidence of our statement that the three men mentioned started the business.

His Lordship—It would be just as well to clear this point up. The section says householders.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I am aware of that.

His Lordship—Householders generally means people who live in houses.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I am not producing it as a register of partners; I am producing it only as evidence corroborating our statement that the Wing Ki Cheong was started by the three persons I have named.

His Lordship—Does it carry any weight?

Sir Henry Berkeley—The fact that these men carried on business as druggists under the style of Wing Ki Cheong.

His Lordship—The definition of householder is the actual tenant or occupant, therefore, supposing a partnership contained seven or eight, I shouldn't expect to find that number on the register. If Chan Mau-chi were a partner, and resided next door, I should expect to find his name on the next door register.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I am not dealing with Chan Mau-chi, but with Pun Sik-chi. Proceeding, Counsel said that when his Lordship had heard the evidence he would have no doubt that the transactions were absolutely above board and in good faith. There was a suggestion that the partnership book was forged, or fraud was attached to it. He would call as a witness the man who made the conditions in that book, and he would tell the Court why he did it and when he did it. They had been put in a most false and unfair position by evidence being offered to the Court, which no doubt the Court was open to receive. Letters said to be written by two other partners were put in. In these, vague mention was made of the name of Chan Mau-chi. The persons who wrote those letters had not been called, when they might have been.

Evidence was called, and the case adjourned.

Wednesday, December 11th.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE FULL COURT.

APPEAL AGAINST A MAGISTRATE'S DECISION.

An application came before the Court for rehearing of charges preferred against Yeung Chuk-po, Ng Tan and Ho Tak. The appellants were charged before Mr. E. B. Hallifax, resident magistrate at Taipo, with the larceny of six boxes of blasting gelatine, the property of the Kowloon-Canton Railway. There were also two other charges against them, and on the evidence taken before him the magistrate sentenced each of the defendants to terms of three months, one month, and four months imprisonment.

The appellants in the case were called, but only one was present.

Hon. Mr. W. Rees Davies, Attorney-General, stated that he was instructed two of the three appellants had absconded. The absconders were the first and third, who had entered into recognizances in the sum of \$750 each. The defendant who appeared had entered into a recognizance in the sum of \$500.

The Puisne Judge—One man is in jail, isn't he?

The Attorney-General—No, both have left the Colony. I will ask your Lordships to dismiss the appeal.

The Puisne Judge—Perhaps this man wants to go on.

The Attorney-General—I understand he wishes to surrender.

The second appellant said he did not wish to proceed with the appeal. He could not get a lawyer, as he had no money.

The Attorney-General—I understand, my Lord, he is prepared to take his sentence.

The Chief Justice—That has nothing to do with us; so far as we are concerned the appeal is dismissed.

The Attorney-General—I would ask your Lordships to confirm the Magistrate's conviction, and to issue a warrant for the arrest of the first and third defendants, and to estreat their recognizances.

The Chief Justice—I don't know whether we can issue a warrant.

The Attorney-General—A bench warrant.

The Chief Justice—I think you can take your own course.

The Attorney-General—Your Lordships will order the recognizances to be estreated?

The Chief Justice—Yes.

The Attorney-General—With regard to the recognizance of this man, who appears on \$500, strictly speaking he should forfeit it by not prosecuting the appeal, but I think it will be perfectly just and fair if the amount is paid back to his surety.

The Court agreed, and dismissed the appeal with costs.

COURT AND GOVERNOR.

The Attorney-General, who was instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, renewed his *ex parte* application for leave to appeal from the decision of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, Acting Puisne Judge, which was delivered on November 26th in the summary action between Ip Tsung-ain and Kwong Tee-king. The application was made on the ground that the judgment was erroneous in point of law and fact in finding that the sale of the junk was a sale of goods in market overt within the meaning of the Sale of Goods Ordinance, 1896.

The Attorney-General—I have been unable in this case to discover any direct precedent on the subject, but I should like to ask your Lordships in the first place whether you are of opinion that the Court has power to take cognizance of the Attorney-General's *locus standi* in the Court. I submit that it is not a question which the Court, on its own initiative, should take cognizance of. I submit that the Court cannot question the Attorney-General's right to appear for a private suitor.

The Puisne Judge—You are not appearing for the Crown.

The Attorney-General—I am aware of that.

The Puisne Judge—Who are you appearing for, the appellant or the Crown?

The Attorney-General—The appellant, by instructions of the Governor, and there is no reason why the Attorney-General should not appear in this Court. Under Ordinance No. 1 of 1871 the Attorney-General's position is expressly exempted in the sense that he is not bound to be admitted as a member of the bar.

The Chief Justice—As Attorney-General.

The Attorney-General—That Ordinance was passed in 1871, a time when the Attorney-General had the right of private practice.

The Chief Justice—It is merely a question of the Attorney-General's appointment by the Government. The Government do not now allow him to practice privately.

The Attorney-General—It is a question for the Governor and not for the Court. The Governor might say the Attorney-General should appear for A or B, or he might not.

The Chief Justice—If you put it in that way we should first have to see the document emanating from the Governor, and then question the Governor's right to grant you permission to appear in a private suit.

The Attorney-General—The Attorney-General would not appear for the Government unless he acted on the instructions of the Government. The point might be raised by any of the parties concerned on the appeal, but it is not a question which should arise from the Court on its own initiative.

The Chief Justice—The position might be this: Suppose we gave you leave to appeal and

the other side took the point. The appeal would be dismissed, but how about the costs?

The Attorney-General—That might be so, or it might not. The fact of your Lordships taking the objection in the first place would certainly instigate the parties concerned to raise that objection. I may state at once, as I said on the last hearing, that the case was taken up by the Government in the public interest. I should like, if I may, just to state my position in the matter. It is true the plaintiff is the nominal appellant, but I submit there is nothing to prevent the Attorney-General appearing on the instructions of the Government. What constitutes the case of public interest? The junk in respect of which the appeal was brought was pirated and plundered on the high seas off the coast of China, and was brought to Hongkong and sold here. It belonged to a Chinese subject, and the fact of the owner being a native of China and not of the Colony, is a reason for the friendly intervention of the neighbouring country. The circumstances of the case may constitute a premium on piracy. The goods of a Chinese subject have been made the subject of an action in the King's Courts, and the Government is entitled, by the Law Officer, to intervene. That is, generally speaking, the first point which makes the case one of public interest. There is also a very important extension of the doctrine of market overt in the judgment of the learned judge. My Lords, my learned friend Sir Henry Berkeley, when Attorney-General, appeared in the case of the junk "Tung Ou Tai" against an American Government vessel, tried before your Lordships. In that case he appeared filing an information on behalf of the King, also for the Government of the United States of America and the defendant in the action.

The Chief Justice—I don't think he appeared for the United States.

The Attorney-General—Your Lordship in giving judgment in that case said the Attorney-General moved on behalf of the Crown, at the instance of the Government of the United States.

The Chief Justice—At the instance.

The Attorney-General—At the end of the case was written solicitor for the Crown, the Government of the United States of America and the defendant. And there are various other cases as the case of the Constitution, which was cited in the case to which I referred.

The Chief Justice—I may say that in that case I did not go very particularly into the procedure, but I assume the procedure was warranted by the Constitution. In the case of the Constitution a warrant was issued and the Admiralty Judge ordered a copy of the proceedings to be served on the Treasurer and the Foreign Government, while the Attorney-General moved, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Government that the civil community be represented. Then it was alleged that the Crown had a right to set aside these warrants in Admiralty, and the Court adopted it, therefore I did not go into the question at any length, but the Attorney-General did not appear for the Foreign Government at all.

The Attorney-General—The Admiralty advocate appeared on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

The Chief Justice—If you look further on you will see that somebody also appeared on behalf of the American Government.

The Attorney-General—There is, of course, a great distinction between these cases. In that case the Admiralty advocate appeared on behalf of the Government, but that is a case where the King intervened to prevent an abuse of the process in his Court. This case is different. I will put it this way. The Government intervenes on behalf of a foreign subject who seeks to obtain a remedy for a grievance committed on the high seas, and in respect of which this Government is interested in the public welfare.

The Puisne Judge—D; you mean to say that you want us to find for the plaintiff; to upset the decision in order to indemnify the plaintiff for having his junk pirated?

The Chief Justice—I don't see how the piracy comes into the question at all.

The Puisne Judge—It does not. It is outside the question altogether.

The Chief Justice—It is a question of law. Is this place a market overt?

The Attorney-General—It is a question of law arising out of important facts.

The Chief Justice—The proposition you put forward just now was that the Government might intervene on behalf of a foreign subject: would you exclude that right on behalf of a British subject.

The Attorney-General—No, my Lord, but it makes the position a more important one.

The Chief Justice—It would introduce grave difficulty and prejudice to the public if the Government might arbitrarily take up any case in which private parties are concerned. It would be an interference with the administration of justice which, I think, is certainly a question of public order.

The Attorney-General—The question as to the position here of the Attorney-General may be one of some difficulty if limited to the sense that he can only appear on behalf of the Crown. In an action pending—pleadings have already been filed—the third party is the Building Authority and defendant. He is sued as the Hon. Mr. William Chatham, Building Authority. I have myself drafted the defence as Attorney-General.

The Chief Justice—It is the same question over again.

The Attorney-General—It would be just as well, when your Lordships are going to decide this point, that the Attorney-General should know in future what his position is going to be, because it will relieve me of a vast amount of additional work where the Crown is concerned in civil cases, where I may be asked to represent the Sanitary Board, or some other board.

The Chief Justice—The Sanitary Board is a Government department.

The Attorney-General—Here is a case in point. This gentleman is the Building Authority, which, on turning to the Ordinance, we see is defined as follows:—"The Building Authority means the Director of Public Works, or such other person as the Governor-in-Council may from time to time appoint." It is therefore open to the Government to appoint Mr. Jones, or any other person, to be the Building Authority.

The Chief Justice—It is a common practice suing a public officer, but there is a practice where the Attorney-General takes proceedings on behalf of the public, not on behalf of an individual.

The Attorney-General—I should like to be permitted to say, regarding the profession, that the appeal is tantamount to an appeal *in forma pauperis*. I am merely saying this in order that my learned friends at the bar may understand my position in this matter. The Crown Solicitor represented the case in the summary court, but as there were no fees in any event for the Counsel on the appeal the Government instructed the Attorney-General to appear. If the case was not taken up by the Government, the litigant would not be capable of instructing Counsel to appear.

The Chief Justice—Do you say the Government cannot be guilty of the offence of maintenance.

The Attorney-General—I am not going to say that. The Government is in the position of the King, and can do no wrong.

The Chief Justice—We have indicated our opinion during the argument, and I don't think it is necessary to do anything more. With regard to the question as to whether the Court can take judicial cognizance of the point, we are quite satisfied that it can. I should have gone further and said it was a question of public order. It is the duty of the Court to see that its organisation is properly observed, and all we can say is that we don't think the Attorney-General has any *locus standi* in this case, and there can be no order on the motion.

The Attorney-General—Having regard to your Lordships' decision, the Governor will authorise the Government to instruct the Crown Solicitor to instruct Counsel to appear in the matter.

The Chief Justice—I don't know that the Crown Solicitor can act. If the Attorney-General cannot, the Crown Solicitor cannot.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I am instructed by Messrs. Denny and Bowley to appear on this appeal on behalf of the appellant, and have just

been instructed. I would ask your Lordships to adjourn the appeal until the next day you sit, in order that I may prepare my argument to address to your Lordships. The Crown Solicitor has withdrawn from the case and now I am instructed by Messrs. Denny and Bowley, who are employed by the Government to take up this matter.

The Chief Justice—I think the time has gone by.

Sir Henry Berkeley—You offered the appellant time in order that you might settle the question whether the Attorney-General could appear for him. If it was decided on the previous day that he was not to appear, there would have been time for another counsel to have taken up the case.

The Puisse Judge—Do you say that Mr. Bowley is instructed by the Government?

Sir Henry Berkeley—Mr. Bowley, as Crown Solicitor, has withdrawn.

The Puisse Judge—You said he was instructed by the Crown.

Sir Henry Berkeley—There is no doubt about your power to extend the time if you please to do so. Messrs. Denny and Bowley appear for this man, and I am instructed by them. When the appeal comes on later, I will then inform your Lordships who it is that is paying the expenses. If it appears that the Crown is paying, and you think they ought not, you can act.

The Chief Justice—That must be according to our view.

Sir Henry Berkeley—It seems to me that the question of expenses has nothing to do with the Court.

The Puisse Judge—You mentioned it yourself.

Sir Henry Berkeley—It is nothing to do with you even if you know it.

The Chief Justice—It so happens that it has been mentioned, therefore we can express an opinion on it.

The Attorney-General—If I may say so, and I think it right to mention it, it would be my last desire to prevent any of my learned friends appearing in this Court.

Sir Henry Berkeley—I would ask your Lordships to extend the time, and if objection is taken, I will meet it, if I can.

The Chief Justice—We'll take it as the application made the other day. Your application will be for leave to appeal. The case is remanded till Monday.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

WRONGFUL ARREST

Yeung Yan, barber of No. 45, Mosque Street, sued Li Moey, a confrere who carries on business in D'Aguilar Street, to recover the sum of \$500 for wrongful imprisonment. Mr. R. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. C. F. Dixon (of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) for the defendant.

Plaintiff told the Court the defendant caused him to be arrested on November 14th on a charge of stealing a razor stone and two deer horns. The police arrested him, and took him to the Central Station.

His Lordship—In the orthodox manner; by the queue?

Plaintiff—Yes. Proceeding, plaintiff said he was taken to the station, charged and looked up all night. In the morning he appeared before the magistrate and was discharged. The razor stone he was charged with stealing, he bought some years ago, while the deer horns were lent to him by a relative of his wife.

After hearing further evidence his Lordship awarded the plaintiff \$100 damages, and costs.

Thursday, December 12th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM AGAINST THE RAILWAY.

Action was brought by Wong Tsui-fook, trading as the Wah Fung, against G. W. Eves as resident engineer of the Kowloon-Canton Railway, and the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British section) and Chung Kien-tong. The plaintiff claimed a declaration that the sum of

\$360 or thereabouts, due by the defendants under a contract dated March 15th and made between the defendants and the Wah Fung, was the property of the plaintiff. Further he sought an order for the payment over by the defendants of this sum. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. F. B. L. Bowley represented the Railway and Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro appeared for the third defendant.

His Lordship—You are not going to dispute the amount paid in? Cannot we eliminate Mr. Bowley?

Mr. Kong Sing—No, he's interested. In action 931 Wong Tsui-fook sued the third defendant for money Chung Kien-tong had received from the Railway under contract with the Wah Fung. This man signed the note for the plaintiff, and your Lordship declared that he was only the agent for the Wah Fung and the present plaintiff. After that action I wrote to the Railway and informed them of the order and judgment and asked them not to pay over the monies to Wong Kien-tong. They replied that they knew nothing about it and would not take instructions from me. Then this writ was issued on September 30th. At that time the first and second defendants must have known that the money paid into Court was due and owing, but they did not pay it into Court until the third defendant was served. I submit that, under section 58 of the Ordinance, I am entitled to costs against both defendants.

His Lordship—Do you, Mr. Almada, admit that you are the Wah Fung?

Mr. Almada—I say my client is a partner.

His Lordship—Do you know anything about the former decision?

Mr. Almada—No.

His Lordship—Then you had better look it up. I am not going back on myself. If I said he is not a partner that stands.

Mr. Almada—I would ask for an adjournment to consider my position.

Mr. Bowley—This writ is endorsed for a declaration that the sum of \$360 or thereabouts is due by the defendants under a contract dated March 6th, 1906, and made between the defendant company and the Wah Fung; and for an order for payment over to the defendants of the said sum, and costs of action. I have that contract here, which is signed by the Wah Fung, and is a contract for baking bricks at a certain price. When the writ was served on Mr. Eves he brought the contract to me and the final certificates showing that all monies due under it had been paid. Until yesterday I understood that that was the position of affairs. Then I was informed by Mr. Eves that Mr. Almada's client, Chung Kien-tong, the man who signed the contract, claimed for certain other works outside the contract, so that these works, which were carried out after the final certificate was signed, are outside the contract. On finding there was a sum of \$23 due to the Wah Fung for extra work, I immediately paid the money into Court.

His Lordship—I don't think I need trouble you further, I will put the case in to-morrow's list.

Mr. Bowley—Mr. Valpy has come in connection with this case at great inconvenience to himself and to the detriment of the Railway works. There are also several clerks here, and I would ask that, if their evidence is to be taken, it be taken to-day.

His Lordship—I don't see that it is needed.

Mr. Bowley—The Railway Company and Mr. Eves are not a party to the previous action in any way at all. The money was paid and the final certificates signed long before the action was brought. When he received the last letter, Mr. Eves understood that there was no money due.

His Lordship—They apparently want to get some costs out of you.

Mr. Kong Sing—I think I am entitled to them, and I would ask to be paid over the money in Court.

Mr. Almada—I object to that.

His Lordship—No, no. I am not going to allow the money out of Court. It is very clear and safe where it is.

The case was put in to-day's list.

A DOUBTFUL DOCUMENT.

Tseung Ut, otherwise Tseung Ut-wo, sued Tseung Fong-chan to recover \$625 due on an undertaking made on December 16th.

Mr. F. X. d'Almada e Castro (of Messrs Almada and Smith) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. J. Grist (of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

Mr. Almada said he understood the defence was that the document was a forgery. He called the plaintiff who put in a document which set forth that defendant promised to pay his client \$625.

Mr. Grist—I think the document can neither go in nor be sued upon. It is not stamped.

Mr. Almada—I will undertake to stamp it.

Mr. Grist—if it is anything, it is a promissory note to pay within a month.

His Lordship—I don't know what it is.

Mr. Almada—It is an undertaking. If it is a promissory note it cannot be stamped.

Mr. Grist—the defence is that we deny the document in toto. We know nothing at all about it.

His Lordship—I think it is a promissory note.

Mr. Grist—It is an unconditional promise to pay \$625 within a month.

His Lordship—The note cannot go in.

Mr. Grist—The only possible way my friend can sue is for accounts in respect of this share in the partnership, which, we admit, this man had at a certain time.

His Lordship (to Mr. Almada)—You've got the wrong form of action, and the only thing I can do for you is to non-suit you.

The hearing was adjourned.

EVOLUTION OF HONGKONG.

[Written for the *Hongkong Daily Press*.]

(Continued from last week.)

XI.

Trade under such conditions could hardly be expected to be sound or profitable, and such we find to have been actually the case. As we have stated before, the entire apparatus of foreign trade had to be created; as carried on by the Company the outer trade of Canton was, perhaps, not a monopoly in the ordinary sense of the word so much as a series of monopolies, one within the other. Navigating officers, purser, supercargoes, and indeed almost all grades in the service had their well understood perquisites and indulgences, all carefully guarded under the general monopoly from outside interference. The Company made comparatively small profits, with which the holders of India Stock had to be content, but to the individual in the service, whether as a director or in lower capacity it frequently, generally if managed with ordinary prudence, proved a mine of wealth.

The Company confined its corporate operations almost to the staple of tea; in its lordly way it left the main articles of export from India—opium and raw cotton to the private enterprise of the natives of India, who were permitted so far to own or charter their own vessels known as "country ships," which, however required a Company's license, and so far were under control. In their outward voyage the Company's ships carried small quantities of woollen and cotton piece goods, principally the former, but their proceeds did not nearly balance the cost of the teas exported. At the earlier period of the trade silver was actually imported from Java and Manila, whither it had been carried in the old-time galleons from the Spanish colonies, but by degrees, with the increasing import of opium and raw cotton, especially the former the necessity of importing bullion ceased. This "country trade" though professedly beneath the dignity of the lordly Company, was really affording it its life-blood. When the Company's monopoly was abrogated, and the trade thrown open, many of the old abuses for a time survived, and amongst others the principal British houses found it necessary to become agents for the native Indian merchants in the distribution of the opium; the opium being a strictly ready money trade supplying in the absence of banks the necessary funds to pay for exports, of which by far the most important was tea.

Opium at the time stood in a peculiar relation to the Government; nominally its import was forbidden, actually it was a monopoly in the

hands of the higher officials, which the provincial government of Canton strove by every means in its power to centre with itself; and this excited the jealousies of the other provincials, who were not content to see all the profits to be derived from the most valuable constituent of the foreign trade going to a neighbour in what was practically an outer province of the Empire. When the cry arose that the enormous amounts of silver required in payment for the opium were impoverishing the country, the cry met with ready support. All this while the Emperor, or rather the parasites who composed his court were euphemistically presumed to have no knowledge of the treatment of the opium. Notwithstanding this presumption of ignorance, the appointments at Canton were assessed at a higher figure than any other of the provincial offices, and in fact were the main support of the growing extravagances of the Court. Nor were the officials of the Company any more disposed to enlighten the subject of its connection with the trade, so that on all sides there was a conspiracy of silence; and this, and not any Machiavellian policy on the part of the British Government, which apparently had none, was the reason for all mention of opium being tabooed at the negotiations at Nanking.

Following the abrogation of the monopoly and the high expectations almost universally prevailing as to the immediate expansion of trade under the spur of what was rather euphemistically called freedom, merchants both on the spot and in England committed the error of over-estimating its capacity. The trade as carried on by the Company could hardly be denominated expansive: no trade could prosper in fact, could scarcely exist unless to the most limited extent under the extravagant conditions of working that prevailed.

We have had a glance at the almost family relations under which the profits of the trade were shared amongst the officers of the Company, while the expenses were borne by itself, as a consequence, extravagance ruled in every department. Practically tea was the only article of export, and it was expected that with the abrogation of the monopoly, and the opening of the trade to private hands a very great increase in the export was to be looked for. This was to a large extent the case, but the increase by no means came up to the hopes formed. There were various reasons for this. In the first place the traditions of the Company outlived the monopoly. The private and office expenses of the merchants were in excess of what so comparatively limited a staple could fairly be called on to bear, and this was capped by enormous home charges, and heavy freights. The duty reached as much as a hundred per cent on the value of the finest teas, on lower qualities it was prohibitive. The opening of the ports raised to the highest point the hopes of the piece goods manufacturers of Lancashire, and cotton wares, not always suitable for the market, were shipped in ever increasing quantities. As in those presteamer days it took many months, sometimes almost a year to get replies to advices, and no proper statistics of exports were kept, this was equivalent to launching each shipment into outer darkness, trusting to a sorely tempted providence for the return. Nor did the evil end here, as the apparatus of trade, as above explained, was in a state verging on primeval chaos, barter was the almost universal rule, and the book entries of sales and purchases were for the most part merely nominal; added to this was the custom of holding stocks at both ends, a pernicious habit acquired from the Company, which resulted in no one at either end knowing even approximately how their accounts stood, and the condition of the trade can be surmised. Confined almost to two staples and with returns hardly possible within two years at least, hope reigned supreme, with the almost inevitable result that on both sides ventures proved unremunerative, if they did not, as in perhaps the majority of cases, prove disastrous. We have spoken of the heavy charges imposed on tea by a professedly free trade government: the fault was probably as much the fault of the merchant as the minister; in view of the extravagant manner in which the trade was conducted the temptation to raise the duties was too great to be resisted.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONFUCIUS: AN ANNIVERSARY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS".]

SIR.—To-day, Sunday—according to the Chinese the fourth day of the eleventh moon—is kalendared as the birthday of Confucius, and I have spent the evening jotting down the following random notes, which I hope you will find a corner for. Confucius was teacher, sage, philosopher, and above all, gentleman. Son of a ripe Soldier-hero, and of a wise young mother, his birth and life, like that of other eminent men, has been made the subject of much myth and legend. The popular weakness for the love-child as prodigy has not spared even his legitimacy. He was delightfully human, with all his precocious and unusual wisdom. He was a willing teacher at twenty-two, and even then he knew better than our modern educationalists, who treat children as uniform vessels in which to cram uniform measures of knowledge. "When I have presented one corner of a subject to any one, and he cannot from it learn the other three, I do not repeat my lesson." At 29, he had all the cocksureness of modern thirty. He claimed then that all his convictions were fixed. In such a shrewd mind we can well afford to excuse a youthful pose or two. Also, like other historical characters, he suffers from the frequent misunderstandings and misreportings of disciples, just as like others, he suffers again by having some of his finest maxims stereotyped on the tongues of pseudo-admirers—of a people who patter rather than practise. How many "boys" and servants thanklessly take an unearned monthly "cumsha" who have learned to repeat that "a superior man will only receive reward for services which he has done." Some of his teachings are, according to the sophists who are common to all moral cults, "too extreme," too impracticable to be observed as anything more than a worthy ideal. Even in his time he experienced the type of the young man that had great possessions. The Duke of Ts'e pleaded: I am old; I cannot use his doctrines. Confucius has moreover the posterity that other sages have had, generations that cheerfully emphasise palatable portions of his teaching and ignore others. Filial piety, like sabbatarianism, has been overworked; and the comment of Confucius on the father who had not taught his son to be filial is kept in the background by Chinese parents and teachers. In adversity Confucius bore himself like Job and the gentleman he was, and though Dr. Legge was not favourably impressed by the details of his general demeanour, it is impossible to read them without forming a picture of a thorough gentleman, who could appreciate the little niceties of life even while so much concerned with greater matters. "Full of awe," runs the modern ritual of his worshippers, "we sound our drums and bells," but it is to be feared he gets a great deal of lip-service. Good sayings may be echoed so often that the translation of them into conduct is apt to be overlooked, in which particular, of course, neither the Confucian cult nor the Chinese people is singular. Even the Sage himself, with a humility that I fondly hope was not merely an explanation and an excuse, admitted that he had not attained to the character of carrying out in his conduct what he professed. For ordinary men, it cannot be too often pointed out, the meekness of such a plea should not be too readily accepted in justification of what is obvious. It is to be noted, by the way, that Confucius never aimed too high, never preached what could not be practised. He taught politics—never "hitched his wagon to a star"; or, as Dr. Legge quotes it, "he taught letters, ethics, devotion of soul, and truthfulness." "To his practical mind the toiling of thought amid uncertainties seemed worse than useless." Dr. Legge complains that he did not "candidly tell his real thoughts on so interesting a subject" as the one on which you have recently quoted S. O. Oliver Lodge in the *Daily Press*.—Yours &c.

AN ADMIRER OF K'UNG.

Kowloon, Dec. 8th.

[Our correspondent will doubtless appreciate our reason for omitting the concluding portion of his reflections.—Ed.]

COMMERCIAL.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade and dated Yokohama, November 30th, 1907, states:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—Market remains unchanged. Shirtings. —No business reported, either in "spot" or "forward." Fancy Cottons and Woollens. —Only very moderate demand, prices of all materials being firm with upward tendency. Apparently there is little prospect of lower rates either in Cotton or Wool for some time to come. **Metals.**—Owing to indications that bottom prices have been reached, dealers are watching the situation very closely, and any stiffening of home rates will probably result in considerable activity. **Kerosene.**—Market active. **Sugar.**—Market dull, with little or no business passing. **Indigo (Natural).**—No business. **Window Glass.**—No business.

EXPORTS.

Tea.—Total settlements from May 1st to November 30th amount to 101,597 piculs, against 103,704 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

GENERAL EXPORTS.

Fish Oil.—Reports from home markets are much weaker, but sellers hold firm at about Y.7.50 per 100 kin. **Copper.**—200 tons Bessemer have been sold at Y.36 per 100 kin.

SILK REPORT.

Since our last report, dated the 12th inst., very few transactions have been put through; but in spite of this fact, prices have remained fairly steady and only a small drop on previous figures has been experienced. However, as the new year is approaching and holders and producers consequently will have to realize some of their Raws in order to obtain ready cash with which to meet their engagements at that time, our market generally is weak and depressed. At ruling prices a loss of about Y. 100 per bale on actual cost of production is incurred. The controversy between the members of this Association and the three rareel factories, "Usuisha," "Kanransha," and "Shimonita," has been settled, the latter returning to established trade channels.

WASTE SILK.

In reference to Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.'s Circular, No. 40, dated Yokohama, November 16th, 1907, in which it is said that "In spite of the agreement made by buyers to absolutely refuse fraudulent goods, it is reported that a local firm has bought a certain quantity of Waste produced by the 'Kaneichimaru Company,'" we must emphatically state that none of the members of this Association, who all signed their name to the agreement refusing to buy Waste containing fraudulent matter, have broken this agreement, wherefore Messrs. Carlowitz & Co.'s statement must be considered as being without foundation whatever. Market is dull, very small business, prices weak and nominal. Settlements from Nov. 12th to Nov. 25th, 600 piculs. Total Settlements from July 1st to Nov. 25th, 1,100 piculs. Stock on Nov. 26th is estimated at 32,000 piculs, viz:—Noshi, 14,000 piculs; Kibizzo, 16,000 piculs; Pierced Cocoons and Sundries, 2,000 piculs.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong 13th December, 1907, states:—A much better enquiry existed towards the close of the past fortnight, the chief feature being the improved demand for the Tonkin and Shanghai markets for suitable chops of No. 20s which have again taken first place in point of quantity, No. 10s running them very close. Prices have farther advanced \$1 to \$2½ per bale, but are still far below replacing cost, and do not allow much for the heavy depreciation in exchange. At the close dealers, having satisfied their requirements, have retired from the market and are not buying, whilst importers show little or no inclination to sell in face of an incessant declining exchange, and a temporary lull is for the moment being experienced. Stocks show no change from last estimate, the recent arrivals being about the same as the off-takes. Bombay is reported strong, some 25,000 bales have been purchased by China merchants for the Shanghai market. Sales of the interval aggregate 4,463 bales, arrivals amount to 5,151 bales, unsold stock estimated at 46,000, and sold but uncleared at 17,000 bales. **Local Manufacture.**—Nothing doing. **Japanese Yarn.**—Importations have ceased owing to much higher prices ruling in Japan. **Raw Cotton.**—The first shipment of New Crop Bengals has arrived, but sales have been checked by the high prices demanded by importers. The cotton is of better quality than last year, being free from seeds and yellow leaf and whiter in colour. The only business reported is the sale of

a choice parcel of 150 bales at \$22½—Stock 300 bales. In China kinds 130 bales (small) have changed hands at \$25½—Stock 350 bales. Quotations are Bengals new \$21 to \$23½, old \$19 to \$22, and Chinese \$22 to \$26. Exchange on India has continued to decline in sympathy with silver and shows a loss of 6½ points on last mail, closing weak to-day at Rs. 145½ for T/T and Rs. 146 for Post. On Shanghai 7½ and on Japan 9½. The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 7th instant viz:—**Indian.**—Market very active, holders firm, values have appreciated 1 to 3 Taels, but high prices check consumption. Total sales about 10,000 bales with an estimated unsold stock of 64,000 bales. **Japanese.**—Total sales about 1,200 bales on the basis of Tls. 85½ to 92 for No. 16s, and Tls. 93 to 101 for No. 20s, prices showing an advance of one Tael. Local—Is enquired for in retail lots on the basis of Tls. 69 to 70 for No. 10s, and Tls. 74 to 75 for No. 12s.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 5th December, 1907, states:—If there is no compensative upward movement in prices there has certainly been more doing than for some considerable time past, and thus far we are able to report an improvement. Finding that the native holders of stocks are being forced to unload at prices irrespective of replacing cost, some importers deem it prudent not to miss the passing demand, and are letting buyers have retail lots at a nominal advance on previous rates, provided the clearances of their former purchases have been satisfactory. This refers almost exclusively to staple Grey and White Manchester goods, what transactions that have taken place in American makes being entirely resales by second hand holders. Forward business is quite out of the question still, although Manchester continues to allure importers into buying by reporting a big business doing at anything from 20 to 30 per cent. over prices obtainable here! The Manchester market is decidedly strong and seems to be following up the price of American Cotton, the Liverpool quotation for spot Middling coming yesterday at 6.23d. with 5.93d. for futures, while this morning the former comes 6.33d., with a strong market. Egyptian Cotton is 10½d. for spot. The advance in American Cotton is due to the Government estimate of the crop being only 11,625,000 bales, but at the same time we have not heard of more than eleven cents gold being quoted in New York for March option. While scarcely anything is coming to this market from the United States the export last month from England amounted 19,000,000 yards of Plain Cottons. The demand for Yarns has revived again, the principal enquiry coming from Szechuen, for which market a number of the more popular spinnings usually taken by Tientsin, in No. 10s more particularly, have been bought, giving the idea that the buying was mostly for that Port. On the contrary it is taking very little, but it is said is supplying a good deal of the Manchurian demand for fancy goods from her stock of direct importations. With regard to the Manchurian trade we have been able to glean a few particulars from Sir Alexander Hosie, H. B. M.'s Commercial Attaché, who has just returned here from that province. The point on which he lays most stress is, that the people up there have plenty of money, but the prices of the ordinary commodities of life still remain at the war level to which they rose, and that until they come down to normal again no more money than is actually necessary for subsistence will be let out. The inhabitants in the northern part of the province fared the best, as the Russian troops had to buy from country people the greater part of their fodder and provisions, whereas the Japanese took everything with them. On the other hand the crops in the north have been partial failures owing to drought, but in the south have been very prolific. Traders in Newchwang, before these recent crashes took place, were quite confident in the future prosperity of the port, although there was bound to be competition with Dalny, which however they did not fear. It is interesting to note in this connection that the total of Dues and Duties at the Port of Dairen (Dalny) for the quarter ending 30th September only amounted to Hk. Tls. 34,666, each successive month showing a falling off, while the Newchwang collection amounted to Hk. Tls. 160,018. A journey through to Harbin and back seems to have convinced him that given time the trade will flourish again. By far the greater part of the money left in the country through the war is held by the northern men who dress entirely in native furs and are not investing in foreign cloths. Grey Shirtings. —54-lbs. —

There is a very fair enquiry for spot cargo, and business has been from first hands, but at only a very inadequate advance on the price ruling when exchange was over three shillings. It has been difficult to glean particulars, but the transactions are chiefly for Hankow and Yokohama. At the Auctions prices very were firm. Light Weight.—The usual small auction lots have sold at steady to firm prices again. Heavy Weights.—There has been a fair demand from second hand holders for Ningpo, and a large variety of weights and chops have changed hands. The individual transactions have been on quite a retail scale not amounting in the aggregate to probably more than 12,000 pieces all told. Firmness has marked the prices at auction. Sheetings.—There has been a fair enquiry among second hand holders for shipment to the northern markets, the transactions reported amounting to fully four to five hundred bales. Cotton Flannels.—There is a moderate local demand for American makes and sales are reported of Two Pagoda Tls. 3.93, Indian Head Tls. 4.15 and Railway Tls. 6.10. The market is quite firm in view of the attenuated stocks. Turkey Reds.—The fight for the market is on in real earnest now, the quantity sold without reserve from first hands since our last report amounting to over 100,000 pieces. This of course falls very heavily on those who have stocks on hand and are not party to the controversy. Some chops seem to keep up marvellously well under the circumstances, the new ones being those that suffer most. Fancy Goods.—Fresh business remains out of the question and the main consideration now is to unload the stocks on hand. This is by no means an easy matter, and is becoming more and more complicated by the daily sudden disappearance of one of more irresponsible indentors. Woollens.—Camlets do not show much change from last week, but on the whole are no better than they were when exchange was twelve per cent. higher. Long Ells and Lastings are actually lower and Spanish stripes very little better. Cotton Yarn.—Indian.—If the course of this market can be taken as a forecast confidence is certainly returning at last, and, though we do not wish to be too optimistic, it looks as though the tide had turned. The good demand that has appeared for these spinnings during the interval has been readily met at the increased prices buyers have shown willingness to pay, and although the sales do not show the same regularity in the advance the market for No. 10s and 20s may be considered up a tael and a half. For No. 12s about half a tael better prices have been paid. The demand for the lower count has come chiefly from Szechuen and Tsingtau, No. 20s being wanted for Szechuen and the River Ports.

From Messrs. Ilbert & Co.'s Weekly Market Report, dated Shanghai, December 5th, 1907:—There is still a total absence of life in our market, although all the outside factors should have a strengthening influence. American Cotton has gradually crept up from 5.75d. in the middle of November to 6.33d. to-day, or about 9 per cent. Exchange has within the same period fallen further to the extent of five-eighths or about 2 per cent., but so apathetic are dealers that practically no response in currency values is obtainable here. If importers refrain from buying, scarcity of supplies ought eventually to bring about a reaction, but the process is likely to be a slow and lingering one, as the long continued depression has taken much of the spirit out of Chinese who are able to bear their losses. Signs of improvement are discernible here and there, but as soon as actual orders are filled the market quickly relapses into its former condition. Telegrams from Manchester advise that favourite makes have been sold largely, which shows that some importers have confidence in a revival, but it is improbable that business is general. November shipments are upon a moderate scale. It is satisfactory to see that dyed goods are filling off, as supplies this year have been considerably in excess of the off-take, and it will take some time to absorb the increased stocks of both these goods and printed cottons, the latter trade having also been overdone. The Turkey Red war is bringing about unprecedentedly low rates for these goods, and other departments of the trade may be brought into the conflict; as far as outsiders can judge the net returns from auction business generally this year can hardly have been profitable, while the losses are likely to be materially increased by the comparatively new departure of including portions of the fancy goods trade for disposal under the hammer. When goods are sold at auction in season or out of season the general effect is to disorganize normal business; owing to the magnitude of the interests involved it is to be hoped that the basis of present operations in dyed goods may be reconsidered.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. steamer *Nore*, sailed on 5th Dec. For Glasgow:—22 cases wood ware, 1 case copper ware, 8 cases chinaw are. Antwerp:—9 bales canes. For Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—750 bales hemp. For London:—7,300 bales hemp, 6 cases hats, 41 cases china-ware, 2 cases wood ware, 100 bales waste silk, 2,546 packages tea, 15 rolls mats, 75 bales merchandise, 401 cases ginger, 2 cases whisky, 2 crates rattan chairs, 3 bales rugs, 13 cases fishmaws, 9 packages sundries. For Marseilles:—100 cases camphor, 6 bales human hair, 50 cases merchandise.

HANKOW, 4th Dec., 1907.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, Best Selected.....	Tls. 28.00
Do. Seconds.....	" 25.00
Buffalo hides, Best selected.....	" 25.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour.....	" 50.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each.....	" 7.50
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi.....	" —
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu.....	" —
Green China Grass, Szechuen.....	" —
Jute.....	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow.....	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng.....	" —
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu.....	" —
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu.....	" —
Animal Tallow.....	" —
Gallnuts, usual shape.....	" 15.00
Gallnuts, plum do.....	" 17.50
Tobacco, Tingchow.....	" —
Tobacco, Wongkong.....	" —
Turmeric.....	" —
Sesamum Seed.....	" 5.90
Sesamum Seed Oil.....	" —
Wood Oil.....	" 9.40
Tea Oil.....	" —

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 13th December, 1907.—Our market ruled active in the early part of the week, chiefly for Banks, in which a substantial advance has been established and a fair business done; but later a quieter feeling has set in which prevails at the close. Exchange on London closes 1/11½ T. T., and on Shanghai at 74½ T. T.

BANKS.—In sympathy with a further rise in London to £82, Hongkong and Shanghai sold at rapidly rising rates from \$700 to \$725 for old, and \$690 to \$715 for new; but at the close our market is a little easier with small sellers of old at \$720, and new at \$715. Nationals are unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions, after a small reported sale at \$780, have advanced to \$790, closing strong. China Traders continue in request at \$90, and Yangtszes at \$136 for old, and \$126 for the new issue. Cantons have been booked at \$242½. North Chinas have receded to Tls. 87 with sellers.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been booked at the improved rate of \$325, and Chinas at \$92, the latter closing in further request.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue on offer at \$30 with probable buyers at \$29½. Indo-Chinas, China and Manilas and Shell Transports are unchanged. Douglases have been booked at \$38, and Star Ferries at \$21 old, and \$11 new, closing with further buyers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have declined to \$98 sellers. Luzons are unchanged with buyers at \$10.

MINING.—Charbonnages continue in request at \$500, and Raubs at \$8½, but we have heard of no sales.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are unchanged with small sales at \$97. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are still procurable at \$66, and New Amoy Docks at \$10. Shanghai Docks sold in the early part of the week at Tls. 73, afterwards falling to Tls. 71, but closing a little firmer with sales and further buyers in the North at the latter rate. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves show a further advance, sales having

been effected at Tls. 205 cash, and Tls. 207½ for the settlement delivery.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—With the exception of a small sale of Humphreys' Estates at \$10½, we have heard of no business in this section, and quotations are unchanged.

COTTON MILLS.—Laou Kung Mows have fallen in the north to Tls. 70 and Sooychees to Tls. 27½. Other quotations are without change.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents are firmer with small buyers at \$9.15. Green Island Cements have been booked at \$10½ and \$11 and more shares are wanted at the higher rate. Electrics have been booked at \$15 and Union Waterboats at \$10½, the latter closing with buyers. Langkats have advanced to Tls. 357½.

Quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	Nominal
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	{ \$125 }	{ \$720, sellers \$715, sellers Ln. 282 Ln. 280 }
National B. of China	26	\$51
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$6½
China-Borneo Co.	12	\$10½, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	{ \$10 } { \$1 }	{ \$8, sellers \$9.15, buyers }
China Provident	\$10	
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 50
Hongkong	\$10	\$10, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 60
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 70
Sooychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 270
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$16.75, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$66, sellers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$97, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$10, sellers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 100	Tls. 71½
Shanghai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 205
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$14
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$11, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, sales
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$240
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$10	\$25½
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$242½, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$92, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$90, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$325, sales
North China	25	Tls. 87, sellers
Union	\$100	\$790, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	{ \$126, buyers \$136, buyers }
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$96, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$10½, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$85, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 100
West Point Building	\$50	\$48, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$500, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$8½, buyers
Peak Tramways	\$10	\$13
Philippine Co.	\$1	\$2
	\$10	\$5
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$98, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Steamship Companies—		
China and Manila	\$25	\$15
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$38, sales
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$30, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	25	{ \$40 \$28 }
Shell Transport Co.	21	\$3½
Star Ferry	\$10	\$21, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$11½, buyers
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$22, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$6, sellers
Stores & Dispensaries—		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$14, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$5, buyers
Watkins	\$10	\$2½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10½, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$10
Do. Founders	\$10	\$150, buyers
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10½, sales & buy.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 5th December, 1907, states:—There has been a fairly active business during the week and rates on the whole have been very steady. A considerable amount of December adjustments have taken place and some speculative business for March, 1908, has been opened. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. A sale of new Banks at \$670 is reported. At the close the market is firm at \$675 for the Old and \$670 for the New. Insurance.—There is no business reported this week. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. There is a demand at nominal quotations. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co., Ltd. Some shares were placed for December at Tls. 74; buyers being satisfied the rate has fallen once more to Tls. 73 for December. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Shares. Considerable business has been done during the week at Tls. 199 and Tls. 200 for December, and for March Tls. 205, Tls. 206½ and Tls. 207. We quote rates at closing as Tls. 197½ for cash, Tls. 198 December and Tls. 207 for March. Sugar Cos.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been dealt in during the week at Tls. 100. Industrial.—Cottons. There is nothing reported. Shanghai Gas Co. Shares are wanted at Tls. 107. Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. Rates have been fairly steady all the week, opening with sales at Tls. 350 for cash and Tls. 355 for December. A slight weakening has prevailed since and our closing rates are Tls. 350 for cash and Tls. 352½ for Dec. For March, transactions at Tls. 367½, Tls. 365 and Tls. 362½ are reported. Shanghai Waterworks. New shares have been dealt in at Tls. 330. Sumatras have been dealt in at Tls. 113. Miscellaneous.—Hall and Holtz remain at \$21 buyers. Telephones have changed hands at Tls. 54. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Land Investment Co. six per cent. debentures have been dealt in largely at Tls. 97½.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, December 13th.

ON LONDON.—Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	243½
Credits 4 months' sight	250
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	198
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank on demand	146
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	74½
Private, 30 days' sight	75½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	84½
ON MANILA.—On demand	95
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	19½ p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	116½
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	4½ p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	4½ p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	76½
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$53.7
BAR SILVER, per oz	25½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent.
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$4.80 discount
"	10 " "	5.60 "
Hongkong	20 " "	4.45 "
"	10 " "	5.15 "

FREIGHT.

From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, dated Shanghai, 5th December, 1907:—There has been a slight spurt in our Homeward freight market since last writing principally in sesamum seeds to the Continent, brought about by the drop in exchange, otherwise there is not much cargo going forward and the tea season is practically closed. Coastwise:—Business is very dull on the coast.—Newchwang has now closed for the winter, and the fall of the water in the Yangtze stops all but river steamers from proceeding to Hankow and there is consequently a sufficiency of tonnage seeking employment with very little demand in any direction.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December — ARRIVALS.

- 5, Tjikini, Dutch str., from Macassar.
- 6, Asia, British str., from San Francisco.
- 6, Hakoto Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 6, Holstein, German str., from Hoihow.
- 6, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.
- 6, Nile, British str., from London.
- 7, Fukuoka Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
- 7, Himsang, British str., from Chefoo.
- 7, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
- 7, Suoahu Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 7, Stentor, British str., from Singapore.
- 7, Taming, British str., from Manila.
- 7, Vandalia, German str., from New York.
- 7, Waishing, British str., from Chefoo.
- 8, Chinkiang, British str., from Swatow.
- 8, Dortmund, Ger. str., from Kamranh Bay.
- 8, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 8, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 8, Johanne, German str., from Hoihow.
- 8, Levanzo, Italian str., from Bombay.
- 8, Polynesian, French str., from Yokohama.
- 8, Samsen, German str., from Bangkok.
- 8, Anglin, German str., from Saigon.
- 8, Armand Behic, Fr. str., from Marseilles.
- 8, Chipshing, British str., from Tientsin.
- 9, Hangsang, British str., from Swatow.
- 9, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Kashing, British str., from Iloilo.
- 9, Kiukiang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 9, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
- 9, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
- 9, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 9, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 10, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
- 10, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.
- 10, Kweilin, British str., from Chinkiang.
- 10, Patani, German str., from Bangkok.
- 10, Sicilia, Br. transport, from Southampton.
- 10, Silesia, German str., from Shanghai.
- 10, Suisang, British str., from Singapore.
- 11, Canton, Swedish str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Courtfield, British str., from Chefoo.
- 11, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 11, Holstein, German str., from Swatow.
- 11, Joshin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
- 11, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
- 11, Kingsing, British str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 11, Nippon, Austrian str., from Singapore.
- 11, Signal, German str., from Hoihow.
- 11, Tainan, British str., from Kobe.
- 11, Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
- 11, Wongkoi, German str., from Saigon.
- 11, Yerimo Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
- 12, Delhi, British str., from Bombay.
- 12, Germania, German str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
- 12, Kohsichang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 12, Malta, British str., from Shanghai.
- 12, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
- 12, Ningpo, British str., from Tientsin.
- 12, Sado Maru, Japanese str., from London.
- 12, Standard, Norwegian str., from Amoy.
- 12, Yeboshi Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.

December — DEPARTURES.

- 6, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
- 6, Frithjof, British str., for Haiphong.
- 6, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
- 6, Hongmoh, British str., for Amoy.
- 6, Lothian, British str., for Kutohinotzu.
- 6, Moyori Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 6, Montgomeryshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Peshawur, British str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Australia.
- 6, Scandia, German str., for Shanghai.
- 6, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
- 7, Atholl, British str., for Singapore.
- 7, Loongang, British str., for Manila.
- 7, Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
- 7, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
- 8, Chibli, British str., for Hoihow.
- 8, Chowtai, German str., for Amoy.
- 8, Dott, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 8, Holstein, German str., for Swatow.
- 8, M. S. Dollar, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Nile, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Stentor, British str., for Shanghai.
- 8, Tjikini, Dutch str., for Kobe.
- 8, Triumph, German str., for Haiphong.
- 8, Vorwaerts, German str., for K. C. Wan.
- 9, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

- 10, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Armand Behic, French str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
- 10, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
- 10, Hilary, German str., for Saigon.
- 10, Johanne, German str., for Swatow.
- 10, Namsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 10, Nanchang, British str., for Ningpo.
- 10, Nile, British str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Polynesian, French str., for Europe, &c.
- 10, Progress, Norwegian str., for Sandakan.
- 10, Taming, British str., for Manila.
- 10, Totomi Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
- 10, Tremont, Am. str., for Moji & Tacoma.
- 10, Wingsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 10, Yochow, British str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Dortmund, German str., for Shanghai.
- 11, Forestdale, British str., for New Castle.
- 11, Fukuoka Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
- 11, Hakoto Maru, Jap. str., for Sourabaya.
- 11, Hitachi Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
- 11, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 11, Phuyen, French str., for Hongay.
- 11, Silesia, German str., for Singapore.
- 11, Wenchow, British str., for Amoy.
- 12, Canton, Swedish str., for Saigon.
- 12, Hupeh, British str., for Hoihow.
- 12, Keongwai, German str., for Swatow.
- 12, Kumsang, British str., for Singapore.
- 12, Levanzo, Italian str., for Singapore.
- 12, Suisang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Naniwa*, from Amoy. Flagship Admiral C. Tamari.
- Per *Shoshu Maru*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Clifford.
- Per *Arratoon Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. E. J. Yaroslavsky and 2 children, Messrs. Owen and Devins.
- Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Messrs. White, Machinzi, Julien, Ramirez, Parks, Barsley, Watter, and de Gracia.
- Per *Armand Behic*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Dalziel, Col. and Mrs. Aitken, Messrs. Peter Don and Armand Faure; from Aden, Col. J. M. Grenfield de Malls; from Colombo, Rev. Pere Gabriel, Messrs. E. Labusiere, Gibson and Tupehon; from Singapore, Mr. Arbonson; from Saigon, Messrs. Thompson and boy, A. Loureiro, Pelipa Santos, Carelan, Lefebvre and Frederick Emptage.
- Per *Polynesian*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mrs. de Brykina; from Kobe, Major Annesley; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Hewett, Mr. and Mrs. de Souza, Mrs. Nomou, Miss McGregor Smith, Miss Ballis, Messrs. Elias Kadoon, Berthoz, Duncan, Appretty and Duverger; for Saigon, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Belvo, Mrs. Carmen, Mrs. Osama, Mrs. Ormisa, Messrs. Baron von Haxhausen and boy, Allary, Finault, Martinoli and Nishida; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. von Mach; from Kobe, Mr. Wynands; from Shanghai, Mr. Norman, Misses Kama Finkelstons, Nina, Marie Friser and Pember; for Batavia, from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. de Grive and infant, for Bombay, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Combe; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. Riennan; from Kobe, Mrs. Pontus, and Mr. Devimen; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Legendre and infant, Mrs. Brandt, Mrs. Bertha Seitz, Messrs. Geffroy, Espanet, Douin, Nova, Joe, Blanchard and Perim.
- Per *Asia*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Helvering and son, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. F. T. P. Waterhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Ph. A. Delaporte and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Holt, Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Backus, Mr. and Mrs. T. Burke, Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Erith Goder, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Henson, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hare, Mrs. Joseph de Lorenzi, Mrs. L. L. Arkins, Mrs. A. D. Arkins, Mrs. Laura G. Webber, Mrs. Lauri Moore, Mrs. Martin V. Beiger, Mrs. C. W. Baker, Mrs. M. H. Wadsworth, Miss M. N. Lowry, Miss Erma Johnson, Miss Helen de Lorenzi, Miss A. Lowry, Miss M. J. Maltby, Countess Sabini, Messrs. F. R. Bronson, W. P. Clark, W. J. Ford, F. H. Robinson, L. Lewis, Herbert Fortier, H. Thomas, F. Rutherford, J. W. Edwards, G. W. Richter, A. Janssens, J. E. Hartshorn, H. G. Smith, J. H. W. Houston, Richard Bednall, Albert Nygren, Dorabjee and servant, Carl Hoffmann and K. A. McLeod.

Per *Haiching*, from Coast Ports, Mrs. Mutton, Miss Picard, and Rev. Jos. Espina.

Per *Courtfield*, from Ching-Wang-Tao via Chefoo, Dr. J. H. Hunt, Dr. Kingdon Ellis, and Mr. D. Forbes.

Per *Nile*, for Hongkong, from London, Mrs. Watts and child, Miss Watts, Miss Milne, Messrs. D. Wood, and J. W. Taylor; from Malta, Mr. Scott Kerr; from London, for Manila, Mrs. Brecknock Watson and infant; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. P. Favers and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. Legge and infant, Rev. and Miss Pillow, Mrs. Harvey and infant, Mrs. Munro, Miss Wise, Miss E. Cate, Miss M. Legge, Miss Mould, Miss M. Green, Miss D. Page, Dr. J. C. Beatty, Capt. McKechnie, Master G. Legge, Messrs. J. Gibson, A. Mitchell, F. Leary, H. Austin, A. Emery, W. Fairbairn, G. McDonald, N. Hornsby, C. Forrest and C. Holden; for Yokohama, Mrs. Borthwick and child, Rev. W. Reeve, Miss S. M. North, Miss M. North, Miss Butterfield; from Port Said, Mrs. Townsley; from Malta, Capt. E. Townsley; for Kobe from Singapore, Mrs. Abel.

Per *Malta*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Messrs. G. F. Hewitt and H. Stevenson; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Peters, Major K. B. Barnett, and Mr. W. S. Brown; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. Mrs. and Miss T. C. Taylor, and Miss Allen; for Colombo, Mr. H. E. Fulford; for Calcutta, Mr. S. S. McKee; for London, Mr. D. F. C. Prebles; from Yokohama, for Marseilles, Mr. A. A. Coltart; for Marseilles via India, Rev. J. H. Lawrie.

Per *Delhi*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Welch, Mrs. Piercey and child, Miss Perkins, Messrs. I. Ward and T. C. Snowden; from Marseilles, Messrs. C. Robinson and J. Gresson; from Brindisi, Mr. Isquierdo; from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Joosah and infant, Mrs. Randolph, Dr. B. M. Salha, Messrs. K. Ida, D. K. Sethra and Rahine and son; from Penang, Mrs. and Master Sreen, Lt. Williams, Messrs. Bool and Teifermann; from Singapore, Messrs. R. A. Gubbay and D. Hardly; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. Holm and child, Mrs. E. Muller, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss G. Brown, Messrs. L. D. Tabb and G. W. Hay; from Marseilles, Miss Hunter, Messrs. H. Harrup, H. G. Brett, J. Graham and H. Blagden; from Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, infant and servant, and Mr. B. M. Mujar; from Colombo, Mr. H. W. Danity; from Singapore, Miss Havu, Miss Muzel, Messrs. Hollemann and Nander Hauvel; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. A. Lamberton; from Gibraltar, Messrs. Gatin and Browne; from Brindisi, Mr. Y. Fernandez; from Bombay, Mr. Farquharson; from Penang, Mr. and Mrs. Fargreaves, Mr. and Mrs. Peace, Misses Spiers, Crahan, Lord, Hauer, Forsyth and Grenville, Messrs. C. Brown, Shrooth, Neville, Cotter, Major, King, Sherman, Butler and Butt.

DEPARTED.

Per *Nippon Maru*, for San Francisco, Mrs. C. P. Terrett, Messrs. A. Duncan, J. B. Bertram and F. S. Clark.

Per *Armand Behic*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Bunhard Rowoldt, W. Peel, A. Ragazzi and Binks; for Yokohama, Rev. P. Jenson.

Per *Polynesian*, for Saigon, Messrs. Charles Hardouin, A. Batallord, L. Vogler, Lucio Sava and P. Lumovitch; for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Fair, Messrs. John Audley, R. D. Van Walree, Moobiji and David Benjamin; for Bombay, Mr. and Madame Tata; for Marseilles, Miss Bains, Messrs. Philip E. Barsley, N. H. Bains, B. F. Madon and R. Whyte.

Per *Rubi*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoesleoh and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Helmer, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Helvering and son, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. M. Marti and 5 children, Mrs. and Miss de Lorenzi, Mrs. M. Burgos, Mrs. W. B. Watson and son, Miss Emma Johnson, Messrs. W. A. Dowley, R. O. Rosario, J. W. Ford, F. R. Bronson, W. P. Clark, C. S. Nicholson, W. D. Pemberton, R. Redwall, A. Nygren, L. Lewis, F. Agredo, A. W. Graf, F. Brunner, O. Winter, J. Davis and W. Gregor.

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